

The  
Report  
ON THE Status  
OF Women  
& Girls  
IN CALIFORNIA™

2014

PREPARED BY  
MOUNT  
ST. MARY'S  
COLLEGE  
LOS ANGELES

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## Mount St. Mary's College

Founded in 1925, Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles offers a dynamic learning experience in the liberal arts and sciences. Primarily a women's college, Mount St. Mary's has a diverse student body, with 50 percent of our students the first in their families to attend college. We are dedicated to providing a superior education enhanced by an emphasis on building leadership skills and fostering a spirit to serve others. For more information, visit [www.msmc.la.edu](http://www.msmc.la.edu). Mount St. Mary's 2014 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ is also available online at [statusofwomen.msmc.la.edu](http://statusofwomen.msmc.la.edu).

# A Message from the President

Mount St. Mary's College is pleased to present the 2014 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™. Like the two previous editions, this year's Report focuses on the challenges facing the 19.1 million women and girls that call California home. The 2014 Report also includes new data related to Southern California. Los Angeles County is the most populous county in the United States and is even more diverse than California as a whole. It is home to more than 25% of the state's population, or nearly 10 million people. Women and girls represent more than half of the county's population and disproportionately experience the same challenges that affect women throughout the state.

Each area examined in this Report reveals sometimes startling gender inequities. Yet it is only when these disparate pieces of data are connected, and gathered in one place, that we begin to see a complete picture of the current challenges facing the state's women and girls. In California, poverty has a woman's face, with more women than men living in poverty. Research indicates that a lack of education and job support services remain two of the greatest root causes of poverty for women. Add to that the fact that some of today's highest-paying and fastest-growing jobs are in sectors of the workforce not traditionally held by women. This type of occupational segregation adversely affects wage equity and women's economic security.

Gender equality is not just a women's issue. It is a human issue, and it is an economic issue that is key to the vitality of our state. It is only by examining the data, and asking the hard questions related to the causes of these inequities, that we will be able to address these challenges. It is through innovative partnerships and coalitions — such as the ones Mount St. Mary's College is forging with the City of Los Angeles, women's commissions throughout the state, and the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount St. Mary's College — that we will achieve meaningful changes in the lives of women and girls in the State of California.

It is my hope that everyone reading this year's Report will be inspired to take action. Whether that's as a volunteer, a mentor, an advocate or as a public official — we need your voice to ensure that California's women and girls are able to achieve all of which they are capable.

With warmest regards,



Ann McElaney-Johnson  
President

# Overview



*President Ann McElaney-Johnson on campus with a pair of Mount St. Mary's College students.*

This is the third Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ produced by Mount St. Mary's College as part of our continued commitment to the mission of our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet: to support women to become all they are capable of being. The Report includes key information on the status of women and girls in California. It is the hope that this Report brings awareness to inequities that persist for women and girls, and inspires action to work toward ensuring that such inequities do not prevent women and girls from pursuing their dreams, and sharing in the responsibility that comes with full participation in society.

The Report reveals slow and steady improvement for women in some areas, but persistent, troubling patterns in others. Women continue to earn college degrees at higher rates than men, but are underrepresented in the highest-paying jobs. Poverty continues to plague single women with children and minority women in disproportionate numbers. Life expectancy continues to rise, and women are gaining greater access to healthcare, but low-income women still struggle to ensure healthy lifestyles for themselves and their children. While tremendous strides have been made for women in the political arena since the founding of this country, women have not come close to parity with men in representation in elected positions at any level of government. We should celebrate the gains women have made throughout history, but we should not become complacent about the unequal conditions that remain for women and girls in California.

## **Key information included in the Report:**

**Demographics:** The state continues to be racially and ethnically diverse. Women of color make up 60% of California's female population. The number of births in the nation and in California has generally declined over the last five years.

**Education:** In California, high school and college graduation rates are higher for women than men. However, ethnic disparities persist. In addition, women and girls have been consistently underrepresented in most science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses.

**Employment and Earnings:** California has a five-cent lower gender wage gap, 83 cents on the dollar, compared with women across the United States, who earned 78 cents on the dollar earned by men. Women across the nation continue to earn less in every occupational category compared with their male counterparts. Women tend to occupy positions in the lower ranks of most professional categories and are concentrated in lower-paying fields.

**Poverty:** In California, women are more likely to live in poverty than are men. Nearly one-third of these women are under the age of 18. Fifty-four percent of women living in poverty are Latina. Those females hardest hit by poverty are those with the least amount of education.

**Media:** Women remain underrepresented both behind the camera, and as actors, in film and television. Women hold 18% of behind-the-scenes occupations in the film industry, primarily as editors (20%) and producers (25%). Women fare slightly better in the television industry, holding 28% of behind-the-scenes occupations.

**Leadership:** Women are underrepresented in federal, state and local government. In California, significant gender gaps exist in the numbers of women among California's political leaders. Since 2005, California has dropped from 10th place to 19th place in the number of women serving in state legislative office.

**Business:** In California, women-owned businesses account for 30% of all firms. California has the most women-owned businesses in the nation. Women of color account for nearly half of the women-owned businesses in the state. In California's 400 largest companies, the California Fortune 400, women hold 11% of the top positions.

**Physical Health:** California women and girls continue to show increasing life expectancy. The state's women have slightly longer life expectancy than the national average. However, health disparities based on ethnicity continue to be seen amongst California women — Asian American women have the longest life expectancy at 89 years, while African American women have the shortest at 78 years.

**Mental Health:** In both professional and social situations, women viewed themselves as less confident and able than men. Females and males rated themselves nearly equal in reporting about skills and dispositions appropriate for living and working in a diverse society. Nine percent of the California female population reported serious psychological distress compared with 7% of the male population.

**Violence:** Approximately 40% of California adult females have reported experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) during their lifetime, which is higher than the 24% of women in the United States who have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner. The highest incidence of IPV in California was among women ranging from 18-24 years of age.

**Incarceration:** The California female prison population is one-third white, one-third Latina, and twenty-eight percent African American. In comparison to the California female population statewide, African American women are overrepresented in the prison population. Crimes against persons continue to account for most convictions of California women, and appear to be on the rise.

**Veterans:** Women are experiencing expanded opportunities within military service, but women face increased risks to wellbeing compared with male counterparts. Eighty-one percent to 93% of women veterans experienced factors known to increase homelessness such as childhood abuse, domestic violence, sexual trauma while serving in the military, and combat-related trauma. Female veterans are the fastest-growing segment of the homeless population.

# Demographics



California is the nation's most populous state, with 12% of the U.S. population residing there. More than 19 million women and girls, half of the state's population, call California home. The state's demographics are shifting. It continues to grow in diversity, and women of color comprise 60% of California females. While the birth rate is declining, the number of women over 65 is on the rise. And more female immigrants settle in California each year than do male immigrants. All of these factors influence the important issues affecting the state's women and girls.

## Total Population

313,914,040 U.S. population

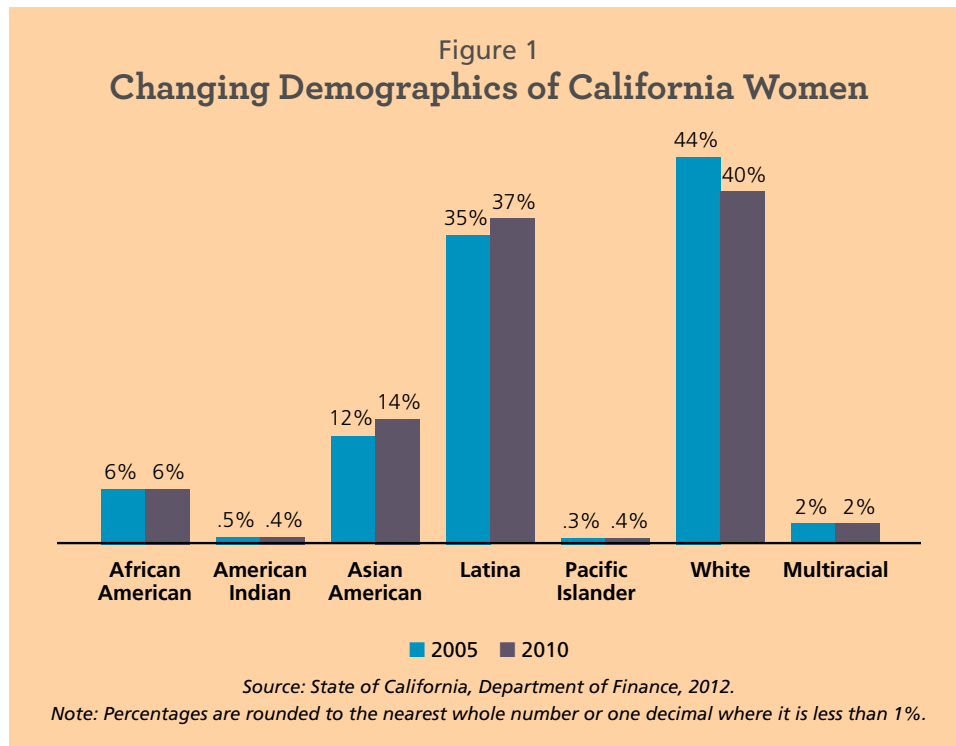
38,041,430 California population

19,123,657 California women and girls

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. Annual Estimate of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012 (PEPAGESEX). Estimate as of July 2012. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>.

## Race and Ethnicity

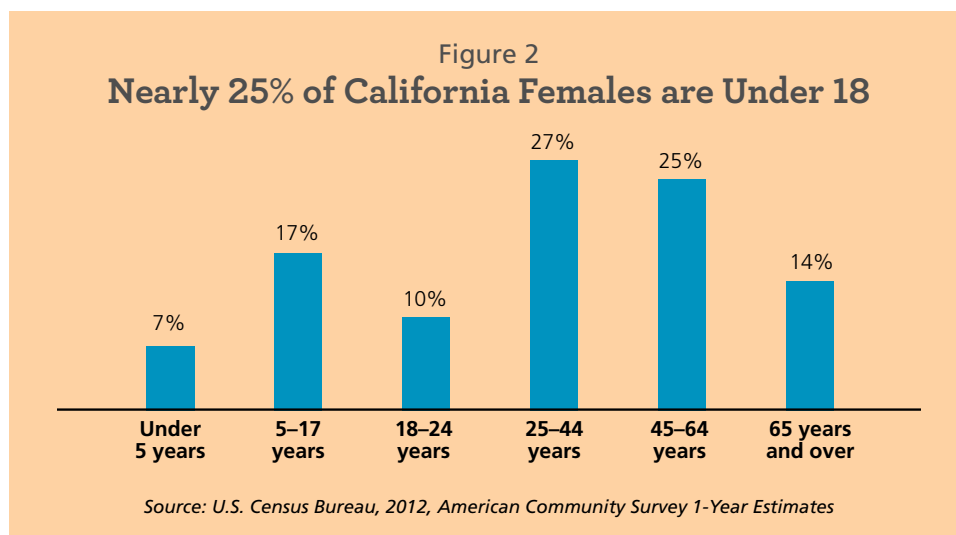


The state continues to be racially and ethnically diverse. Women of color make up 60% of California's female population.<sup>2</sup>

## Birth Rate

The number of births in the nation and in California has generally declined over the last five years. In 2012, more than a half-million live births were recorded in the state: 49% were to Latinas, 28% were to white women and 6% were to African American women.<sup>3</sup>

## Age

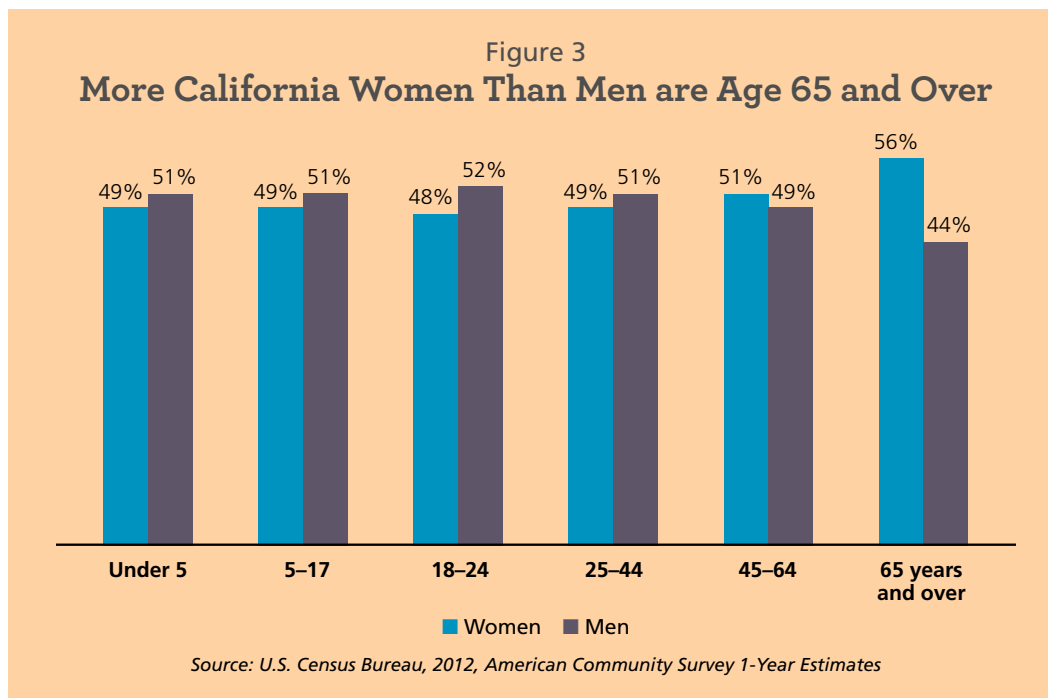


<sup>2</sup> State of California, Department of Finance. (2012, September). Retrieved from <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/data/race-ethnic/2000-2010/index.php>

<sup>3</sup> Martin JA, Hamilton BE, Osterman JK, et al. (2013). (National Vital Statistics Report; Volume 69, No. 1). Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_09.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_09.pdf)

Of the more than 19 million females in California, the median age is 36.7 years; nearly 25% are under the age of 18 years.<sup>4</sup>

The median age of women in the United States has increased dramatically from 31 years in 1980 to almost 39 years of age in 2010, with women having a higher median age than males.<sup>5</sup>



The number of women 65 years and older is greater than the number of men 65 years and older.

### Marital Status

In California, 41% of females 15 years and older are married; an additional 3% are married, but separated from their spouses; and a third of California females have never been married.<sup>6</sup> Fewer than a quarter of the women who identify as African American (only) are married.

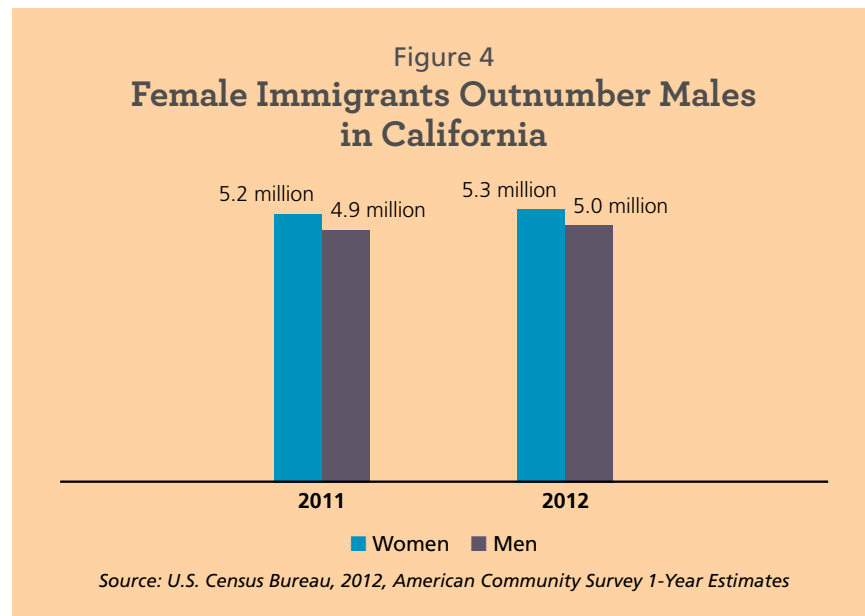
<sup>4</sup> U. S. Census Bureau (2012). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (Tables S0201, S0101). Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

<sup>5</sup> U. S. Census Bureau (2012). Historical data retrieved from <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2012/tables/12s0007.pdf> <http://census.gov/>; current data 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (S0101, B01001) retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2012). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (B12002).

## Immigration

Twenty-seven percent of California's population, or more than 10.3 million Californians, report being foreign born; 70% of immigrants coming to the United States before the turn of the century (2000) currently reside in California.<sup>7</sup>



In California, female immigrants continue to outnumber male immigrants. Of female immigrants, more than 2.6 million have become naturalized citizens.<sup>7</sup>

These statistics represent immigrants for whom there are recorded numbers. The Department of Homeland Security estimates that there were 11.5 million unauthorized immigrants residing in the United States in 2011; nearly half (47%) were female. A quarter of these unauthorized immigrants, 2.8 million, live in California.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (B05003).

<sup>8</sup> Office of Immigration Statistics. (2011, January). Retrieved from <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/estimates-unauthorized-immigrant-population-residing-united-states-january-2011>

# Education



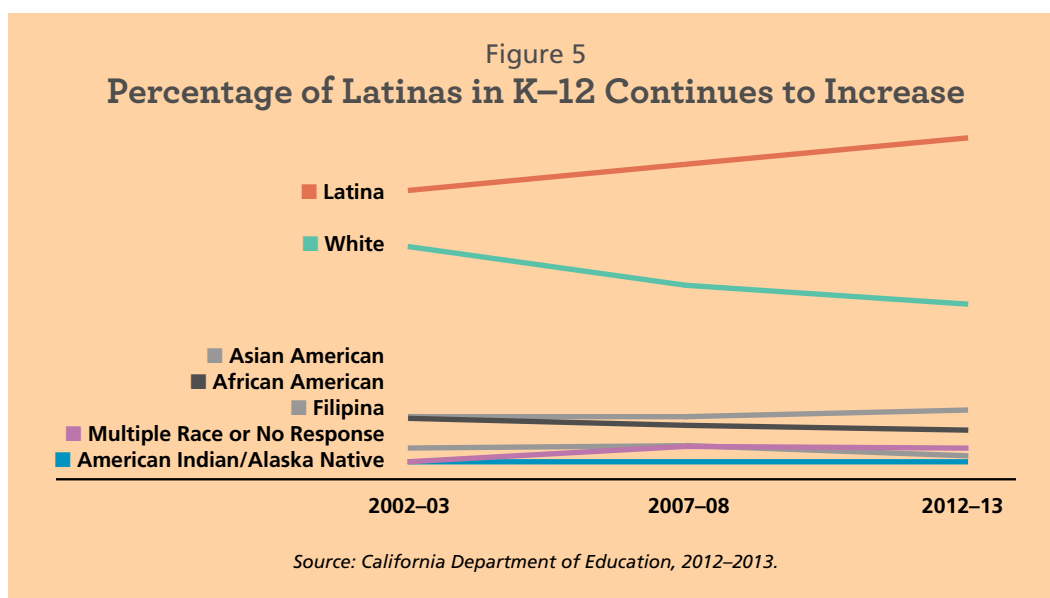
In California, high school and college graduation rates are higher for women than men; however, ethnic disparities persist. In addition, women and girls have been consistently underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) courses, resulting in a trajectory for fewer women into STEM classrooms, degrees and careers.

## K-12 Students

In the 2012-13 school year, 6.2 million students were enrolled in California public K-12 schools; 49% were girls.<sup>9</sup>

## Racial/Ethnic Distribution

California public school girls reflect the diversity of the state's population, with 53% of K-12 females in 2012-2013 identified as Latina.



<sup>9</sup> California Department of Education. (2012-13). Retrieved from <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.

Figure 5a  
Girls' K–12 Enrollment by Ethnicity

Race or Ethnicity	2002–03	2007–08	2012–13
African American	8%	7%	6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%	1%	1%
Asian	8%	8%	9%
Filipina	3%	3%	2%
Latina	45%	49%	53%
Pacific Islander	1%	1%	1%
White	34%	28%	25%
Multiple Race or No Response	1%	3%	3%

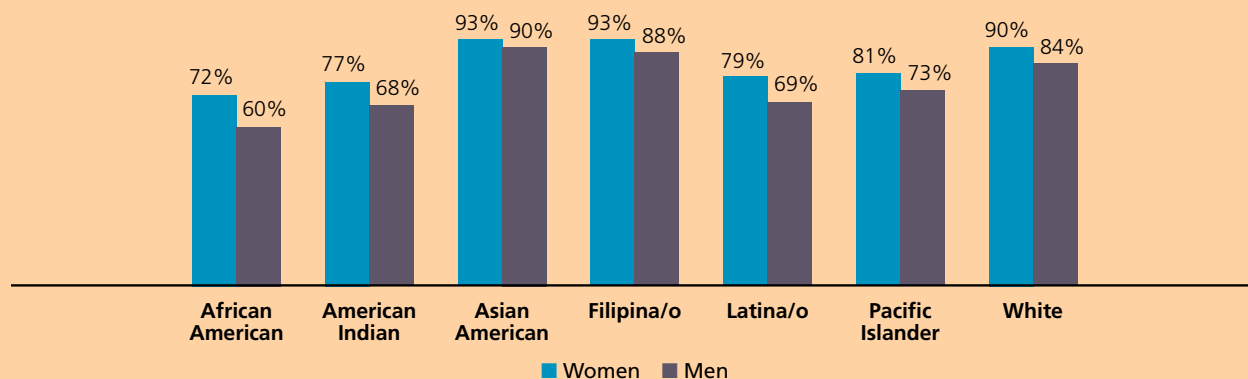
Source: California Department of Education, 2012–2013.  
Note: Percentages are rounded up to the nearest whole number.

Over the past 10 years, the total number of K-12 females has consistently hovered around 3 million; however, the number of students of color continues to increase.<sup>9</sup>

### High School Graduation Rates

The 2011-12 cohort graduation rates<sup>10</sup> reported for K-12 students in California shows that females graduate from high school at a higher rate than males: 83% to 75%, respectively.

Figure 6  
California Females Graduate from High School at Higher Rates than Males



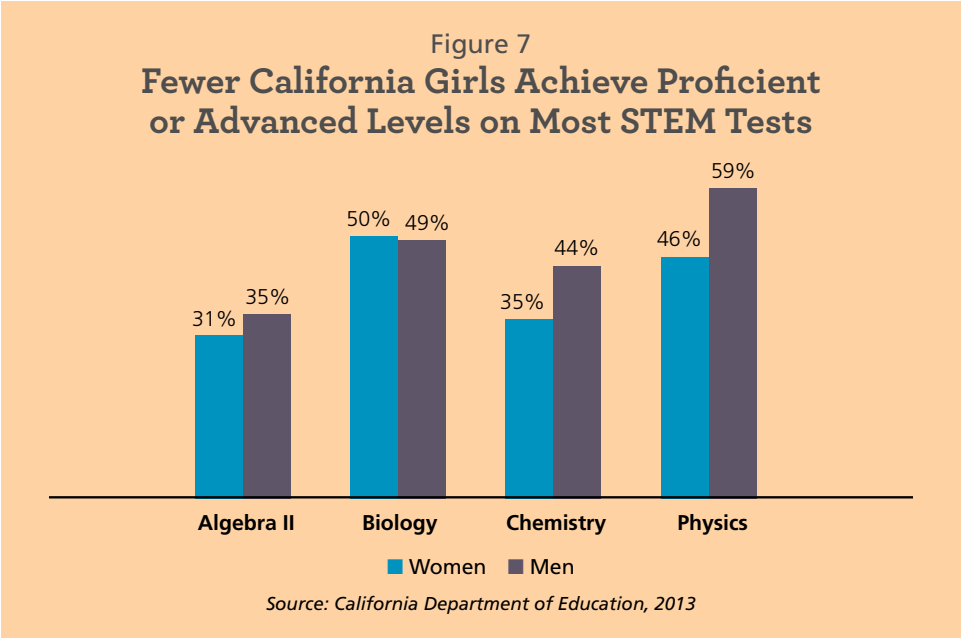
Source: California Department of Education, 2011–2012

Among females, graduation rates differ by ethnicity with Asian American students having the highest graduation rate (93%) and African American females graduating at a rate of 72%.<sup>10</sup>

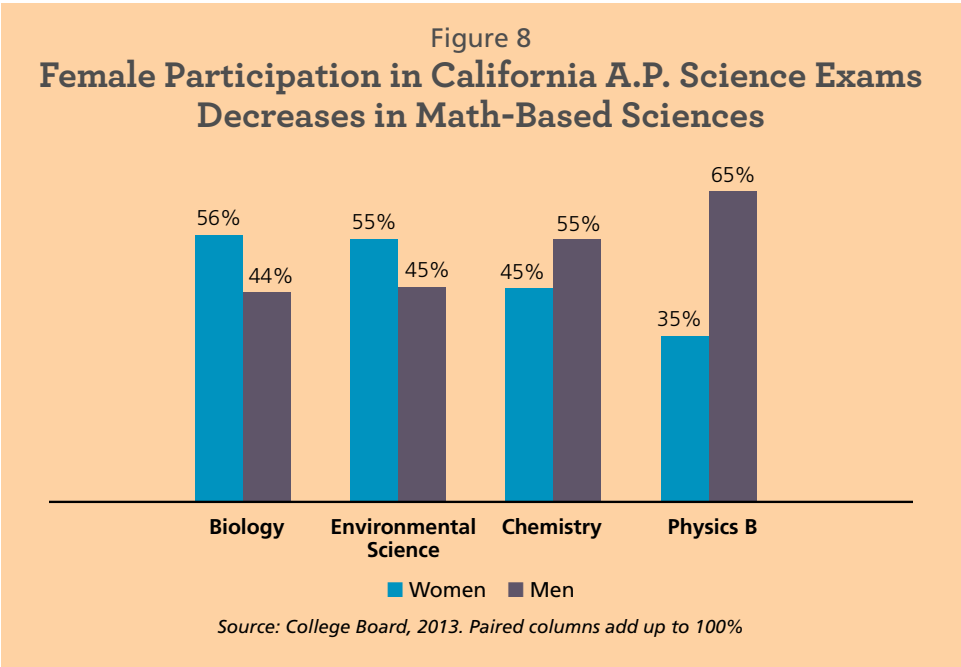
<sup>10</sup> California Department of Education. (2011-12). Retrieved from [www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/hsgrguidance.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/hsgrguidance.pdf). Note: California uses an adjusted cohort model for calculating graduation rates: the 4-year adjusted cohort includes students who enter 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time in the initial year; students who transfer into the cohort during any of the 4 years are added to the cohort; students who transfer out, emigrate to another country or die during the 4-year period are subtracted from the cohort.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Fields (STEM)

Despite the increasing numbers of female high school graduates, girls tend to perform lower, on average, than boys in courses that prepare students for careers in STEM fields. California’s Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) results reveal gender participation in science and mathematics courses is variable.<sup>11</sup>



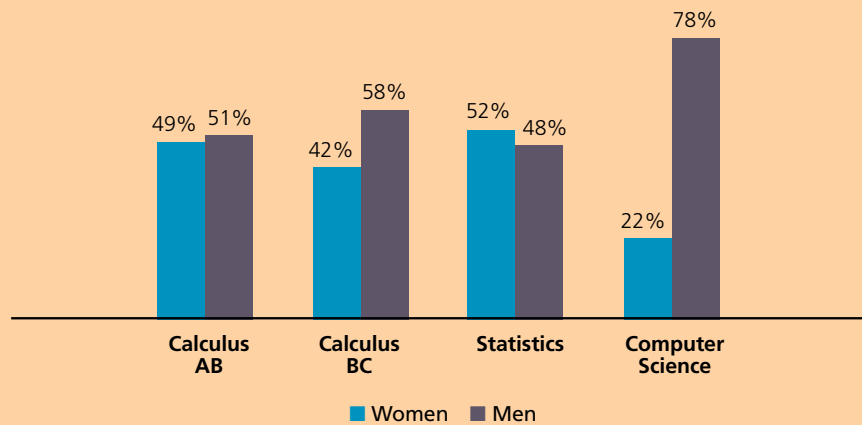
Participant rates based on gender have historically been uneven among test subjects; among STEM subjects in 2013, more females than males took A.P. exams in biology and environmental sciences, and statistics.<sup>12</sup>



11 California Department of Education. (2013). Retrieved from <http://star.cde.ca.gov>

12 College Board. (2013). Retrieved from <http://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap/data/participation/2013>

Figure 9  
**Gender Participation in California A.P. Math Exams  
 Varies by Subject Matter**

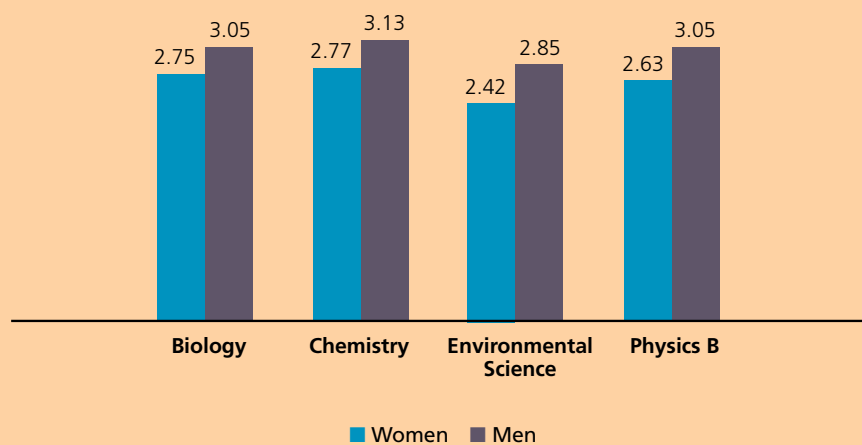


Source: College Board, 2013.

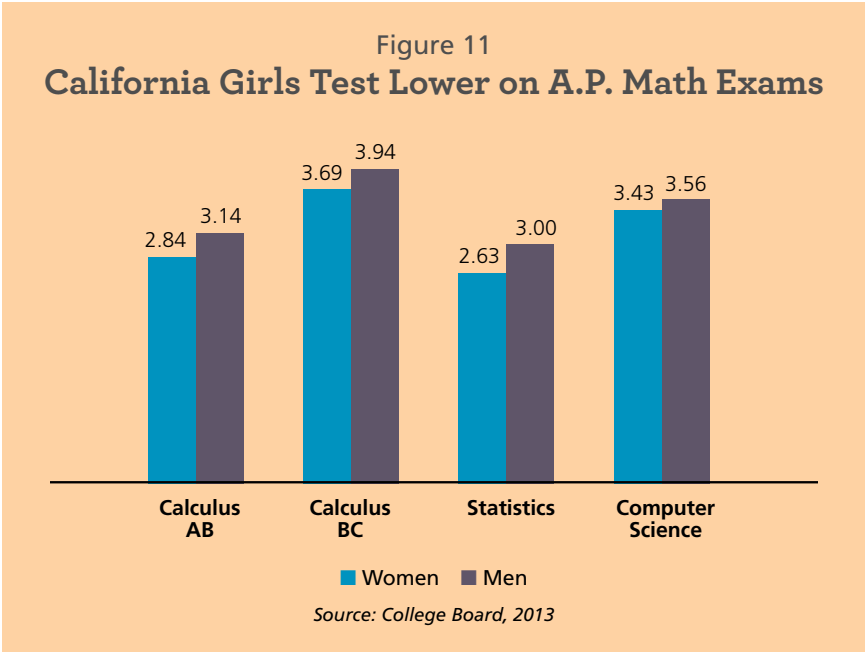
Note: Percentages re determined out of all tests taken in each subject. Paired columns add up to 100%

The Advanced Placement (A.P.) examination, conducted by the College Board, tests high school students at college-level understanding in specified subject matter. On A.P. exams, the score range is 1-5, with a 3 being the minimum score accepted for college credit.

Figure 10  
**California Girls Test Lower on A.P. Science Exams**

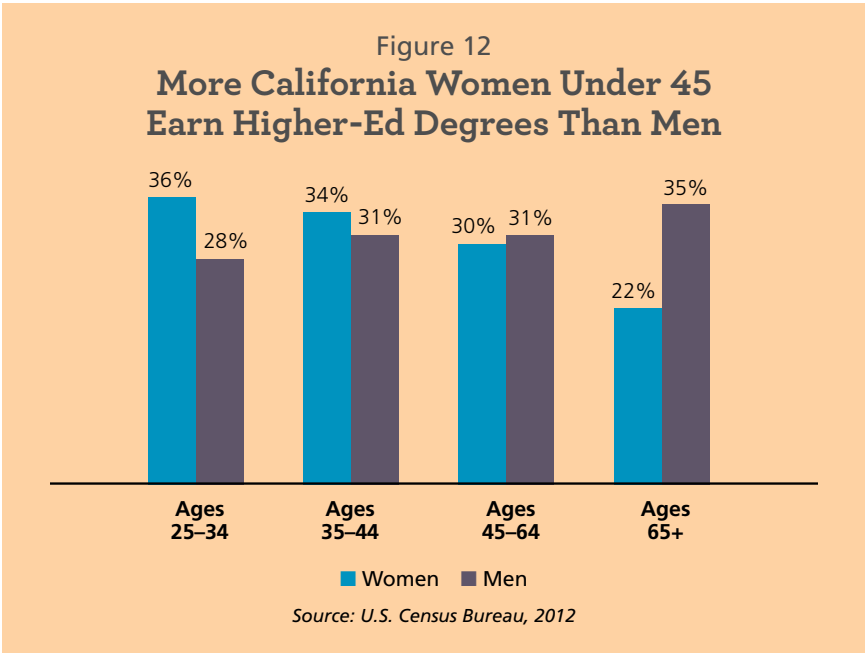


Source: College Board, 2013. Note: These are average scores.



The overall average, or mean, score on all subject matter A.P. exams for females (2.81) is lower than that for males (3.04).<sup>13</sup> The performance gap (difference in average score) between boys and girls in all STEM courses reported above is persistent in showing higher scores for boys than for girls. Girls’ scores were better than, at par with, or less than the mean gap in multiple humanities subjects, including various language/literature/composition exams and art.

Postsecondary Education

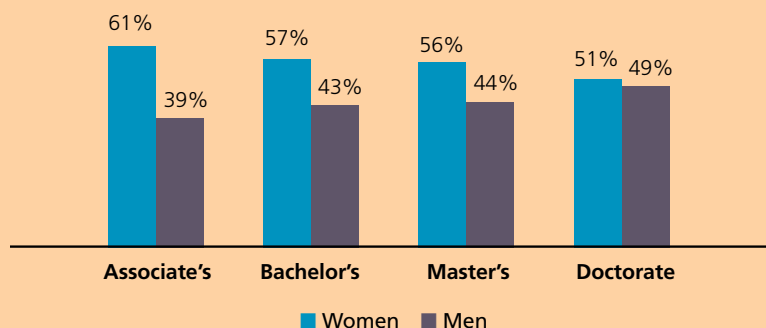


Overall, more women in California are earning bachelor’s degrees than men.<sup>14</sup>

13 College Board. (2013). Retrieved from <http://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap/data/participation/2013>

14 U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; (B15001). Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>

Figure 13  
**More Women Than Men Earn Postsecondary Degrees in California**



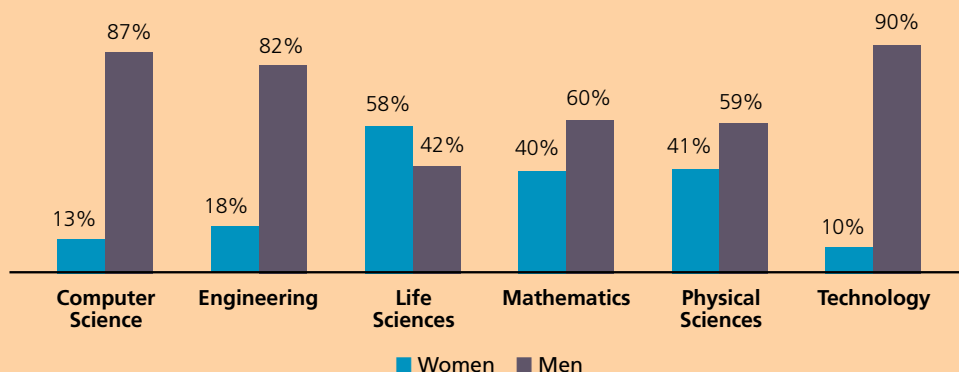
Source: Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System, academic year 2011–12. Paired columns add up to 100%

Today, more women than men are enrolled in colleges and universities throughout the state.<sup>15</sup> Roughly 55% of all students enrolled in California institutions of higher education are female.<sup>16</sup>

In 2011-12, more women than men earned associate, bachelor's and master's degrees in California. At the doctoral level, more women than men earned professional doctorates. Between July 2011-2012, 1,078 doctor of medicine degrees (MDs) were awarded in California; of these, 48% were to women. During that same time period, 5,465 law degrees were awarded, of which 50% were earned by women.<sup>17</sup>

While California women are earning more degrees overall, fewer women than men are earning degrees in most STEM fields.

Figure 14  
**STEM Bachelor's Degrees Awarded to California Women**



Source: California Postsecondary Education Commission, 2010. Paired columns add up to 100%

In spring 2010, women earned the majority of bachelor's degrees in the life sciences. On the other hand, fewer than 1 in 5 of degrees in computer science and engineering were awarded to women, and women earned only 1 in 10 degrees in technology fields.<sup>18</sup>

15 U.S. Department of Education. (2012). Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/default.aspx>

16 U.S. Department of Education. (2012). Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/>

17 U.S. Department of Education. (2012). Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/datacenter/cds.aspx>

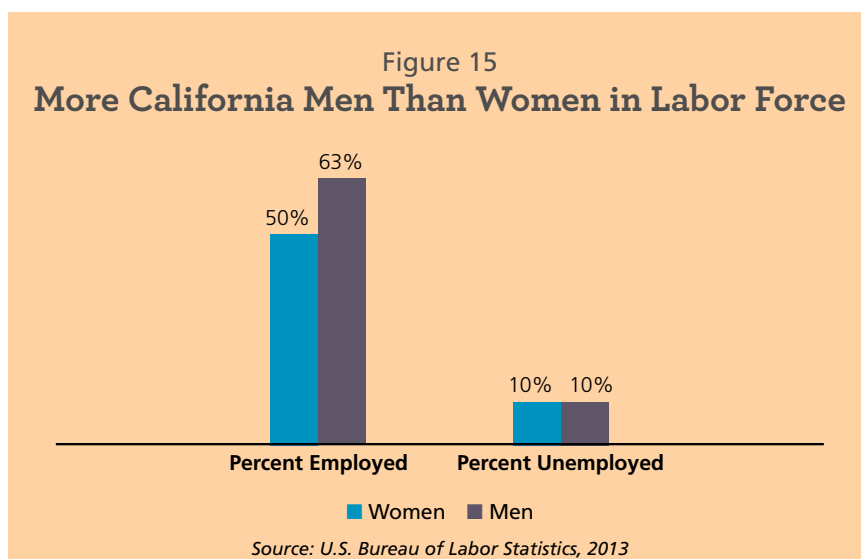
18 California Postsecondary Education Commission. (2010). Retrieved from <http://www.cpec.ca.gov/OnLineData/GenerateReport.ASP>

# Employment and Earnings



The unemployment rate is similar among the genders; however, women are less likely to enter the workforce and when they do, they make less money than men. While STEM fields generally represent some of the highest-paying career opportunities, women are vastly underrepresented in these professions. In general, women tend to occupy positions in the lower ranks of most professional categories and are concentrated in lower-paying fields.

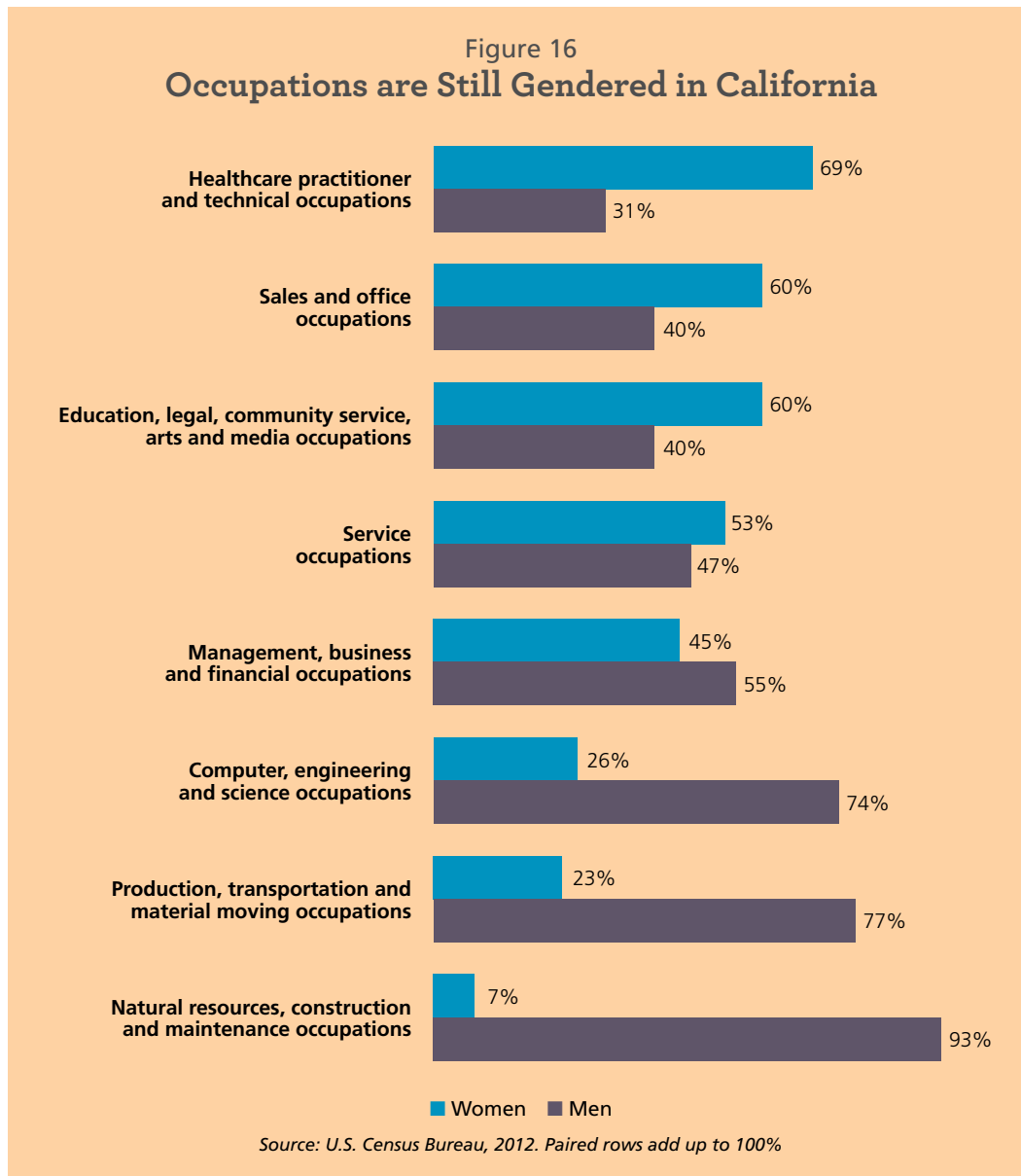
## Employment Status



In 2013, the unemployment rate for California men and women was 10%, above the national rate of 8%. Married individuals were less likely to be unemployed (7% for married men, 8% for married women) than single women (12%).<sup>19</sup> Unemployment rates for African Americans (17%) and Latinas (14%) were higher than the state average. Whites (10%) and Asian Americans (7%) were at or below average. Women fare about the same as men within ethnic groups.<sup>20</sup>

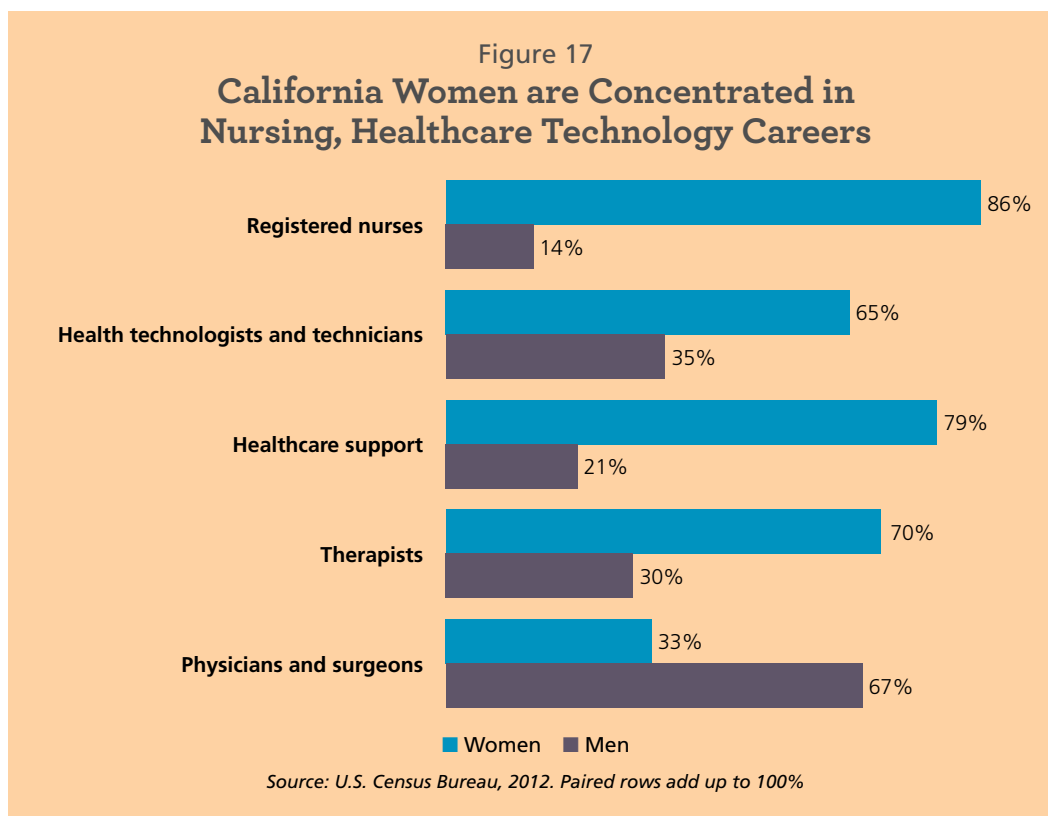
<sup>19</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2013). [Table 14] Retrieved from [http://www.bls.gov/opub/gp/pdf/gp12\\_14.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/gp/pdf/gp12_14.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2013). [Table 14] Retrieved from [http://www.bls.gov/opub/gp/pdf/gp12\\_14.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/opub/gp/pdf/gp12_14.pdf)

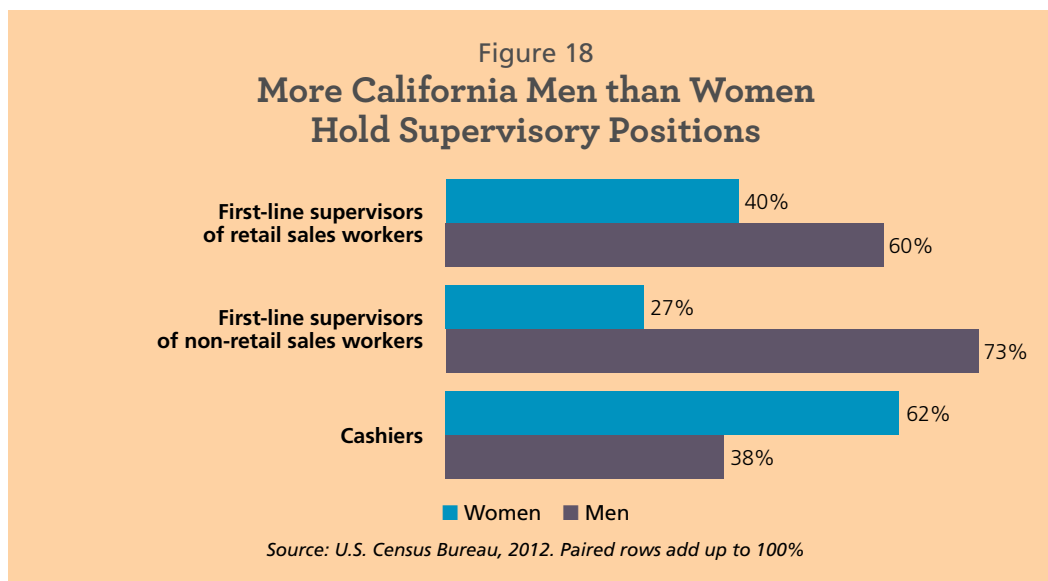


When looking at broad occupational categories within the state, women represent 60% or more of employees in three categories: healthcare practitioner and technical operations; sales and office occupations; and education, legal, community service, arts and media occupations.<sup>21</sup> However, for specific occupations within each of these broad categories, gendered hierarchies emerge in terms of wage earners and supervisory positions.

21 U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. (S2401). Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>



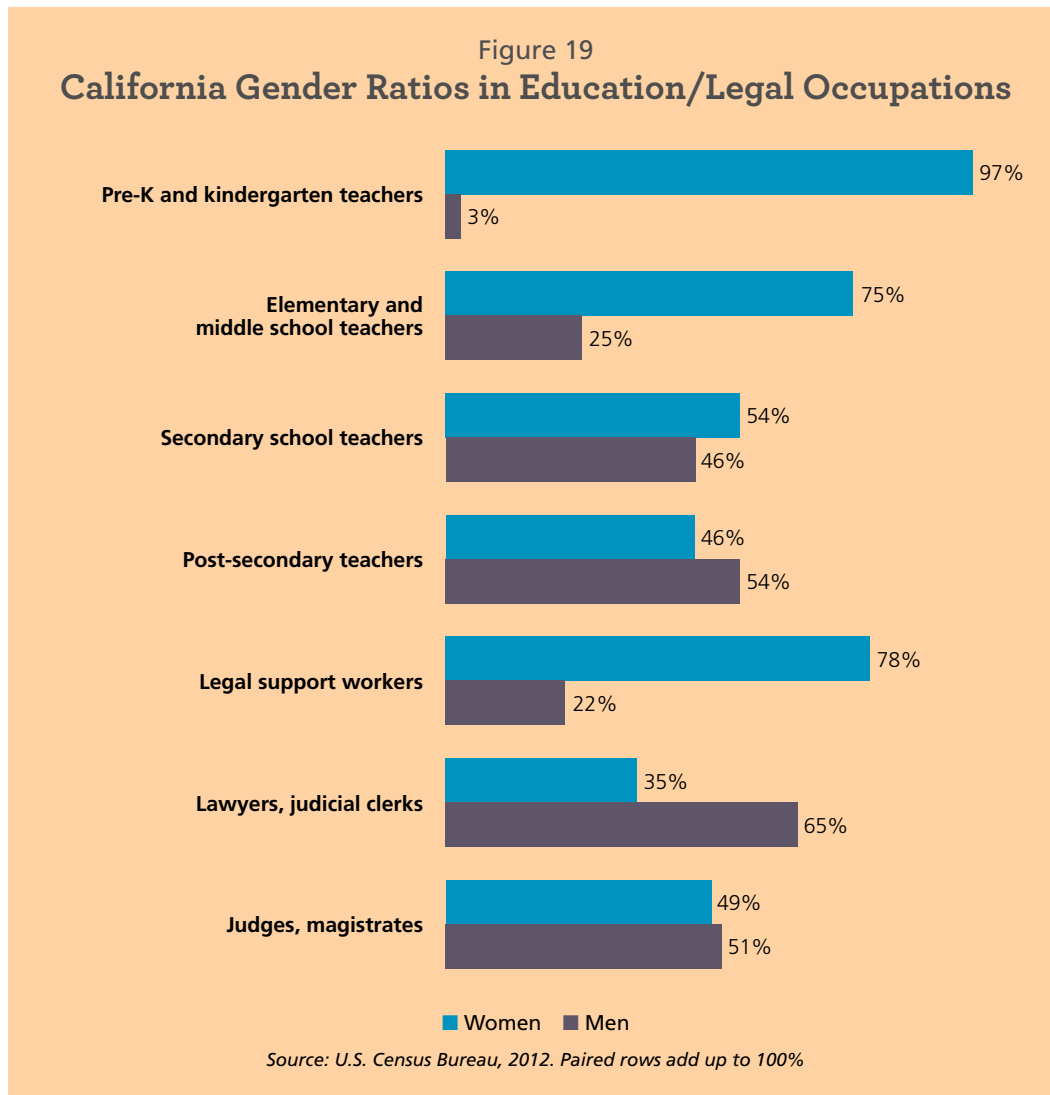
Within the healthcare practitioner and technical category, traditional gender roles continue. For example, women predominately occupy the lower-paying healthcare technician categories, while men comprise the majority of higher-paying dentists, physicians and surgeons.<sup>22</sup>



In sales and office occupations, men hold the majority of supervisory positions and women hold the majority of cashier positions.<sup>23</sup>

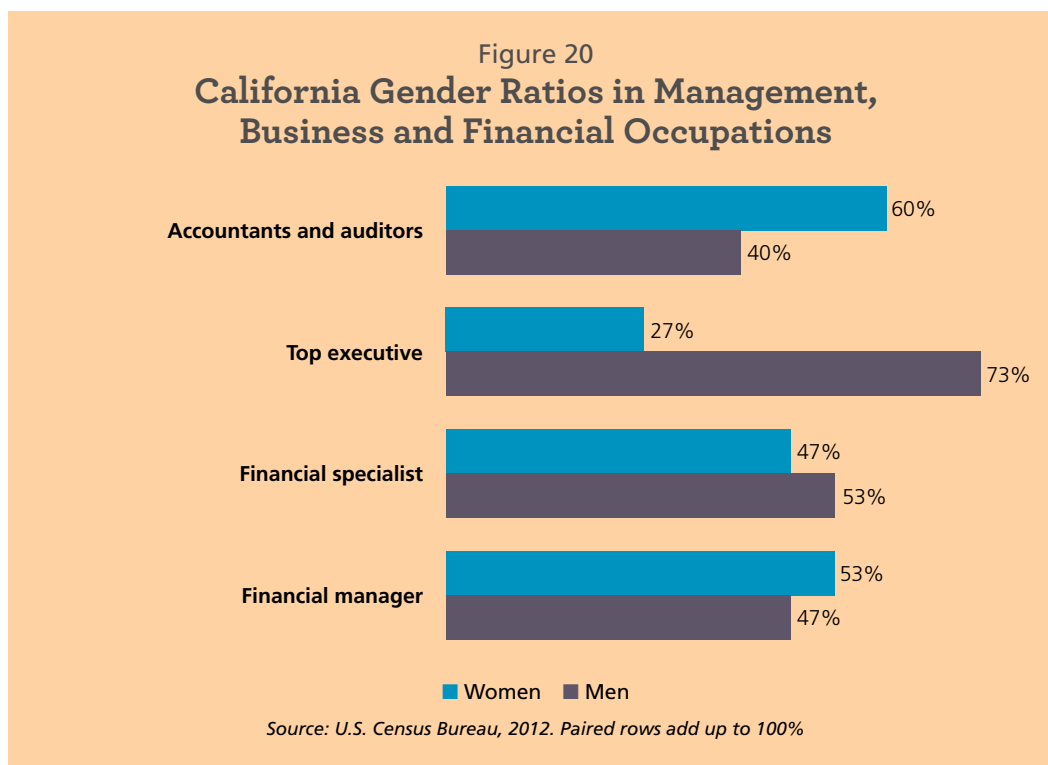
<sup>22</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (B24020).

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (B24020).

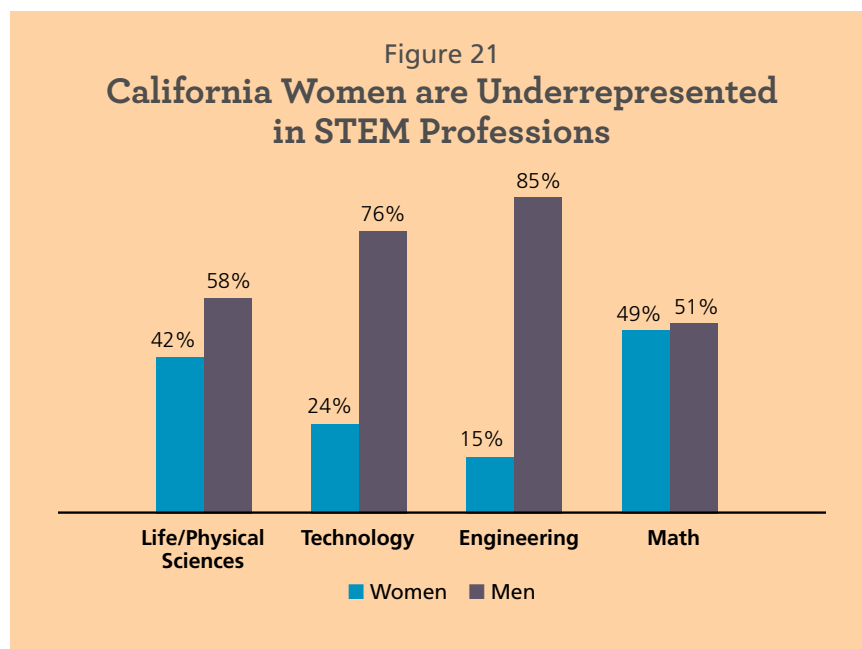


In education, women are more likely to be K-12 grade teachers than men. In legal occupations, women also are more likely to serve as legal support workers and assistants, while men are more likely to be lawyers and judges.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>24</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (B24020).



In management, business, and financial occupations, men and women are employed in roughly equal numbers; however, uneven gender gaps are revealed in more specific occupations, such as the four illustrated above.<sup>25</sup>

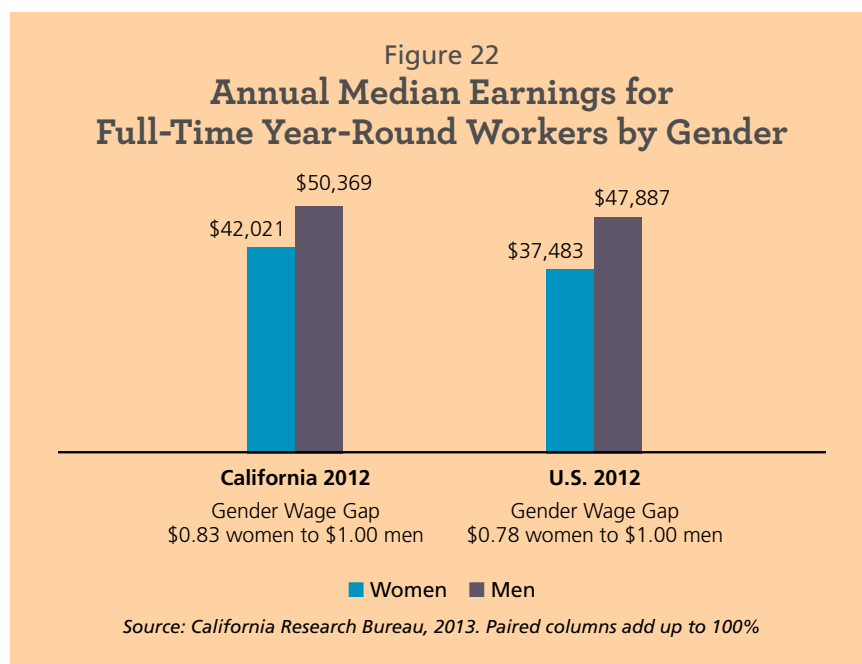


Fewer women hold jobs in STEM fields than men in California. The greatest gender discrepancy is in engineering and technology. Of all STEM fields, women are only equally represented in math.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (B24020).

<sup>26</sup> California Research Bureau. (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/13/S-13-019.pdf>

## Earnings Gap



California has a five-cent lower gender wage gap than the nation; across the United States, women earned 78 cents on the dollar to men.<sup>27</sup>

Figure 23

### California Women Still Earn Less Than Men in All Occupational Categories

Occupation clusters	Median Female Earnings	Median Male Earnings	Difference
Management, business and financial	\$62,029	\$81,496	-\$19,467
Healthcare practitioners and technical	\$71,383	\$89,034	-\$17,651
Natural resources, construction and maintenance	\$21,756	\$39,358	-\$17,602
Computer, engineering and science	\$75,821	\$91,190	-\$15,369
Education, legal, community service, arts and media	\$53,624	\$67,247	-\$13,623
Architecture and engineering	\$80,599	\$91,248	-\$10,649
Production, transportation, and material moving	\$24,656	\$34,755	-\$10,099
Service	\$23,439	\$30,169	-\$6,730

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012

Women earn less than men in every occupational cluster. Additionally, categories with the greatest earnings differences by gender include healthcare, legal and management occupations, where women hold fewer top-paying positions.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (S2402).

<sup>28</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (S2402).

Figure 24  
**Female-to-Male Earning Ratios  
 Across Age Groups in the U.S.**

Age Group	1980	2012
Ages 16–24	\$0.84	\$0.90
Ages 25–34	\$0.67	\$0.93
Ages 35–44	\$0.58	\$0.80
Ages 45–54	\$0.57	\$0.77
Ages 55–64	\$0.58	\$0.77
Ages 65+	\$0.84	\$0.82

*Source: Pew Research Center, 2013. Note: These numbers represent female earnings for every dollar earned by males, based on median hourly salaries.*

According to the Pew Research Center, the gender wage gap has narrowed considerably over the past 30-plus years, but the extent of the gap depends on the age of female and male workers.<sup>29</sup> Across the United States, women in the 25-34 age group are closest in salary parity to males, earning \$0.93 for every \$1.00 earned by males. Women in older age groups (35-65 years) receive proportionately less than males.

Figure 25  
**Top-Paying Jobs in California**

Occupation	Hourly	Annual
Nurse Anesthetists	\$78.97	\$164,261
Pediatricians, General	\$73.11	\$152,082
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$71.36	\$148,414
Natural Sciences Managers	\$71.32	\$148,345
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$68.55	\$142,570
Lawyers	\$67.53	\$140,454
Marketing Managers	\$66.35	\$138,002
Pharmacists	\$64.33	\$133,802
Air Traffic Controllers	\$62.98	\$130,987
Dentists, General	\$62.24	\$129,445

*Source: California Employment Development Department, 2013*

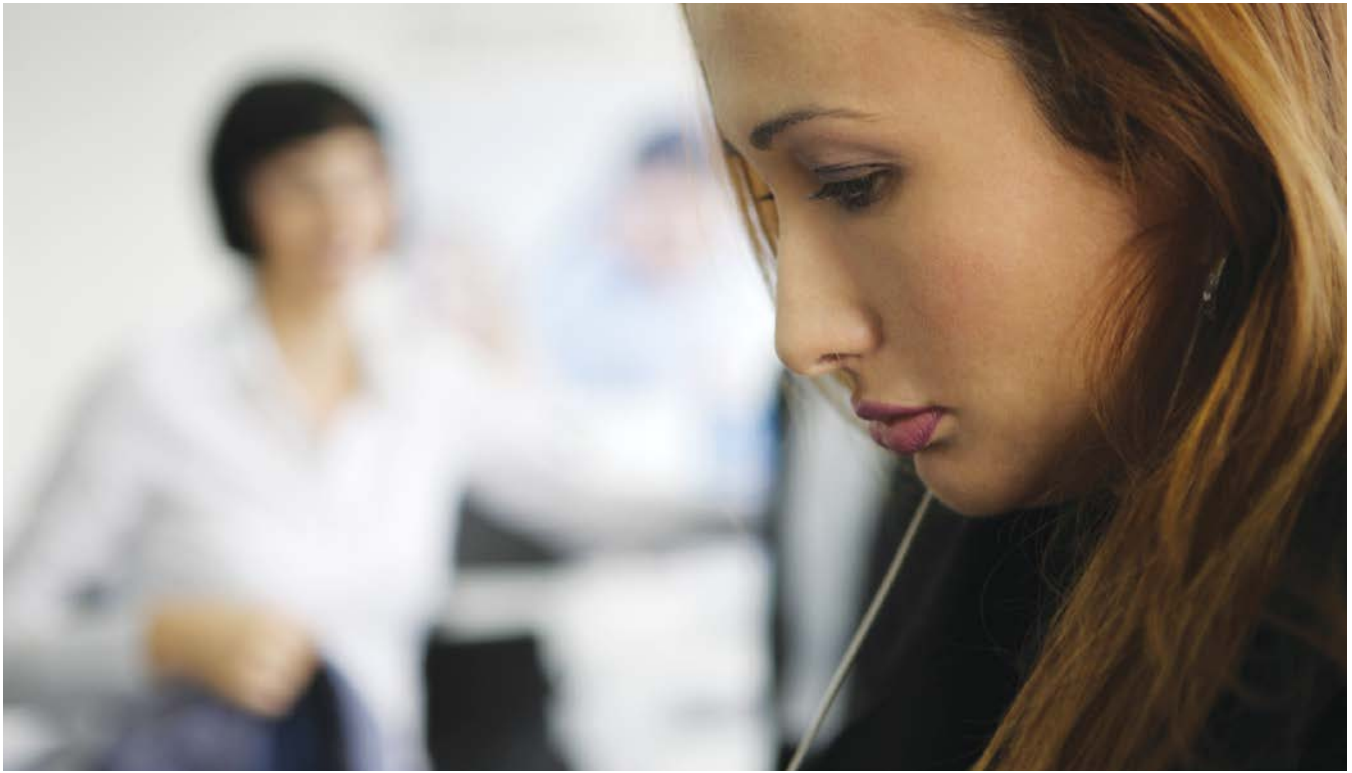
Currently, four of the top-paying jobs in California are in the medical field.<sup>30</sup> The growth in these fields is largely due to an aging population in California. Today, six of the top 10 projected fastest-growing professions from 2010-2020 in California are healthcare related: biomedical engineer (68% growth rate), home health aid (52% growth rate), personal care aid (43% growth rate), emergency medical technician (42% growth rate), medical scientist (41% growth rate), and marriage and family therapist (39% growth rate).<sup>31</sup>

29 Parker, K. and Morin, R. (Dec 11, 2013) *On Pay Gap, Millennial Women Near Parity – For Now: Despite Gains, Many See Roadblocks Ahead*. Taylor, Paul, ed. PEW Research Social and Demographic Trends. Retrieved from <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/12/11/on-pay-gap-millennial-women-near-parity-for-now/>

30 California Employment Development Department. (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/OccGuides/HighestPaidOcc.aspx?Geography=0601000000>

31 California Employment Development Department. (2012). Retrieved from <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/OccGuides/FastGrowingOcc.aspx>

# Poverty



In California, women are more likely to live in poverty than are men. Nearly one-third of these women are under the age of 18. Statewide, the numbers are particularly concerning for two groups: single women living with children, and Latinas. In 2012, 54% of women living in poverty were Latina. Additionally, those females hardest hit by poverty are those with the least amount of education.

## Poverty Threshold

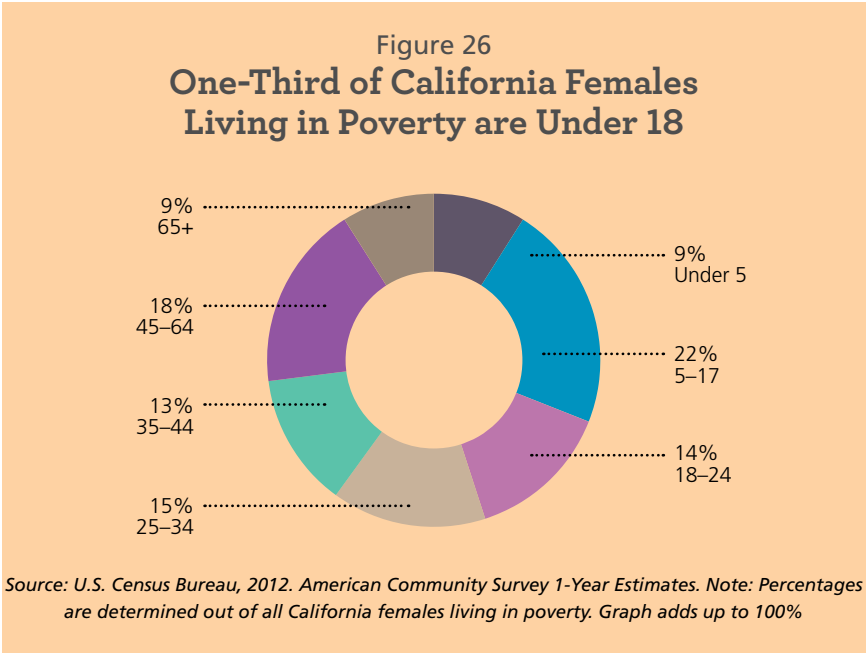
An individual or family is considered to be living in poverty if 100% of their pre-tax income is below a federal poverty threshold created by the U.S. Census Bureau. The official poverty threshold is established each year using annual income, family size and, in the case of one- or two-person households, the age of the householder. The 2012 poverty threshold for a single person was \$11,720; the threshold for a family of four (two adults, with children under the age of 18) was \$23,283.<sup>32</sup>

In 2012, 6.3 million Californians — or 17% of the state's population — were living below the official poverty threshold. Of Californians living in poverty, 54% were females.<sup>33</sup>

32 U.S. Census Bureau. 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>; see also <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/>. Note: The official poverty threshold applies to every family of a given size across the country; it does not consider the cost of living in different areas. To supplement the official poverty measure, the Census Bureau has developed several poverty measures that account for a broader range of factors (e.g., cost of living, including whether the person is a homeowner with or without a mortgage; non-cash benefits such as food stamps; housing assistance; and tax benefits.) These experimental supplemental poverty measures (SPMs) lead to a broad range of poverty thresholds; the highest SPM in California is for a family of 4 (homeowners with a mortgage) in the San Jose/Sunnyvale/Santa Clara metropolitan area at roughly \$35,000 compared with the official threshold of \$23,283. Because these SPMs are still in the experimental stage, all poverty rates in this chapter are based on official thresholds.

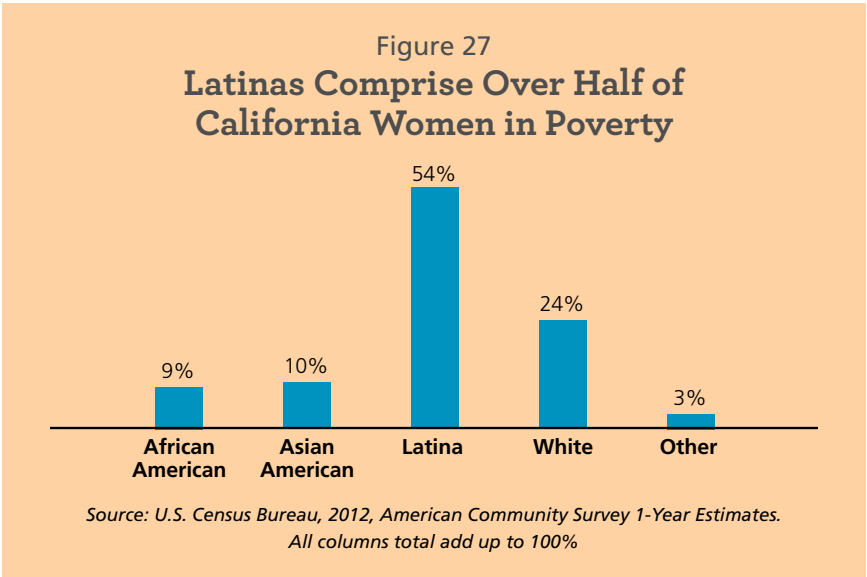
33 U.S. Census Bureau. (B17001B-B17001I). Retrieved from <http://census.gov>

Poverty and Age



Of the 3.4 million individual California females living in poverty, nearly one-third (31%) are under the age of 18; 9% of females living in poverty are under 5 years of age.

Poverty and Ethnicity/Race

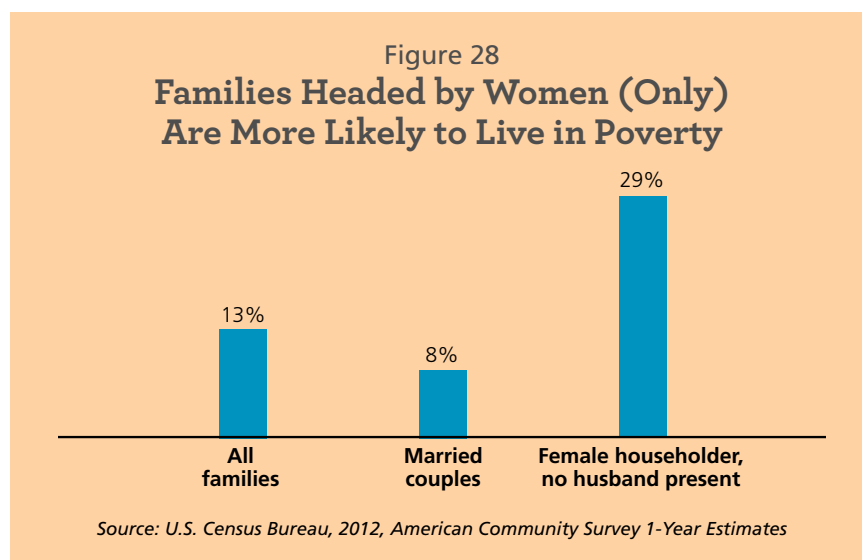


Over half of impoverished individuals in any ethnic/racial group are female.<sup>34</sup> Of the females living in poverty, the largest percentage is Latina.

34 U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (B17001-B — I). American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.

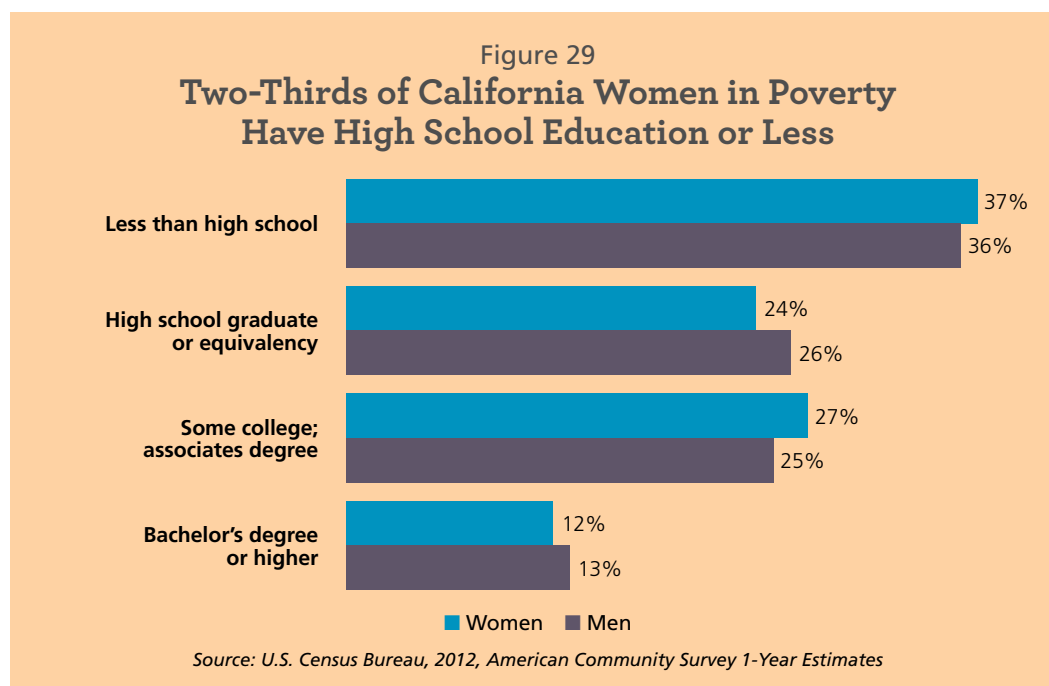
### Poverty and Marital Status

Based on the official poverty threshold, the poverty rate for California families is 13%; the national rate is 12%.



Twenty-nine percent of all female households with no husband present live in poverty.<sup>35</sup> Of these households, 39% include children under 18 years of age, and 44% include children under 5 years of age.

### Poverty and Education



Among adult California women 25 years and older living in poverty, 61% have a high school degree or less; 39% have some college and only 12% in poverty have completed a bachelor's degree. Statistics are similar for California males.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>35</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (S0201).

<sup>36</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). (B17003).

# Media



California is one of the largest producers of media in the nation in terms of television shows and films. However, women continue to be underrepresented both behind the camera, and as actors, in film and television. Women hold 18% of behind-the-scenes occupations in the film industry, primarily as editors (20%) and producers (25%).<sup>37</sup> Women fare slightly better in the television industry, holding 28% of behind-the-scenes occupations.<sup>38</sup>

## Women in Film and Television

The percentage of key, behind-the-scenes occupations held by women in the top 250 Films of 2012:

- **25%** of producers
- **20%** of editors
- **17%** of executive producers
- **15%** of writers
- **9%** of directors
- **2%** of cinematographers

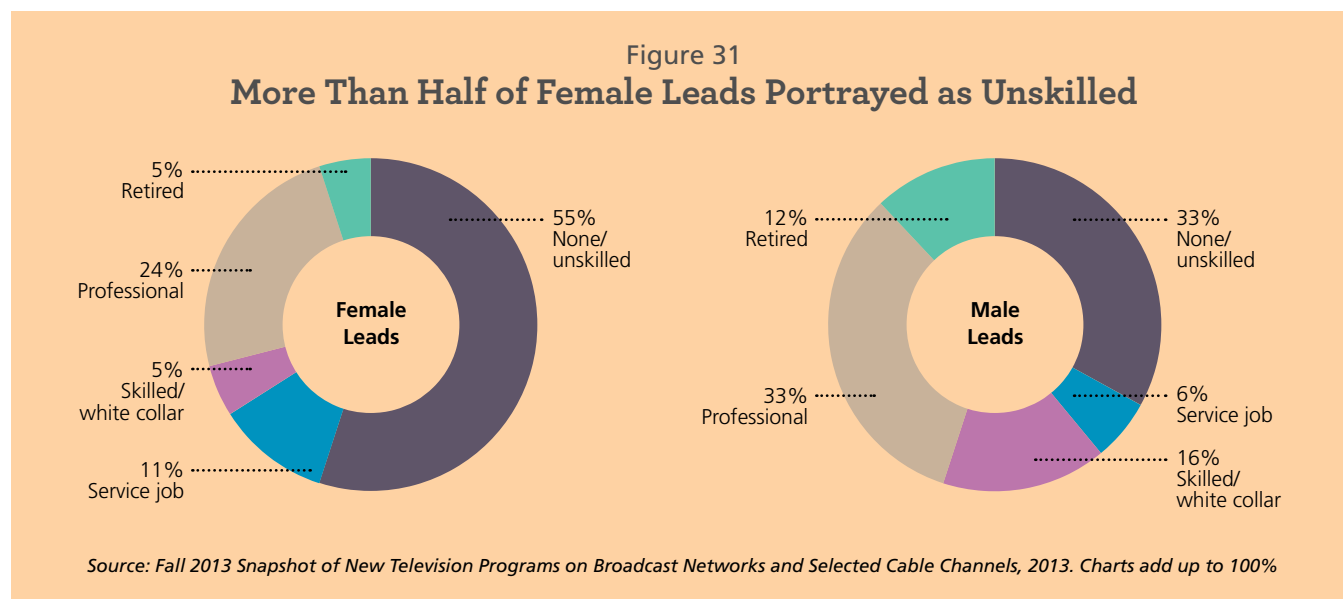
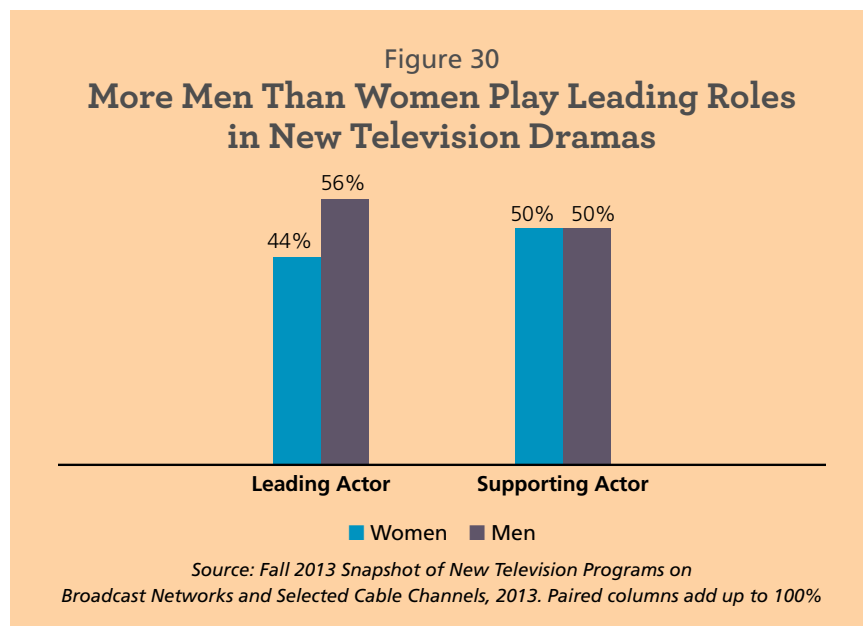
The percentage of key, behind-the-scenes occupations held by women in the television industry: broadcast networks, cable and Netflix programs, 2012–13:

- **38%** of producers
- **30%** of writers
- **24%** of executive producers
- **23%** of creators
- **16%** of editors
- **11%** of directors
- **2%** of directors of photography

37 Lauzen, Martha. The Celluloid Ceiling: Behind-the-Scenes Employment of Women on the Top 250 Films of 2012, Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film, San Diego State University (2012). Retrieved from [http://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu/files/2012\\_Celluloid\\_Ceiling\\_Exec\\_Summ.pdf](http://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu/files/2012_Celluloid_Ceiling_Exec_Summ.pdf)

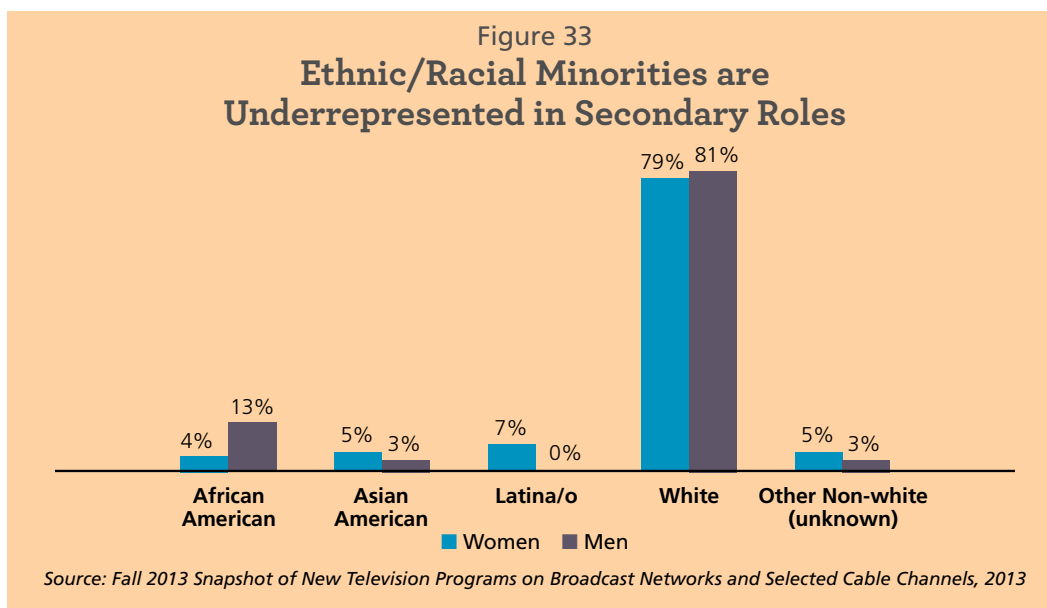
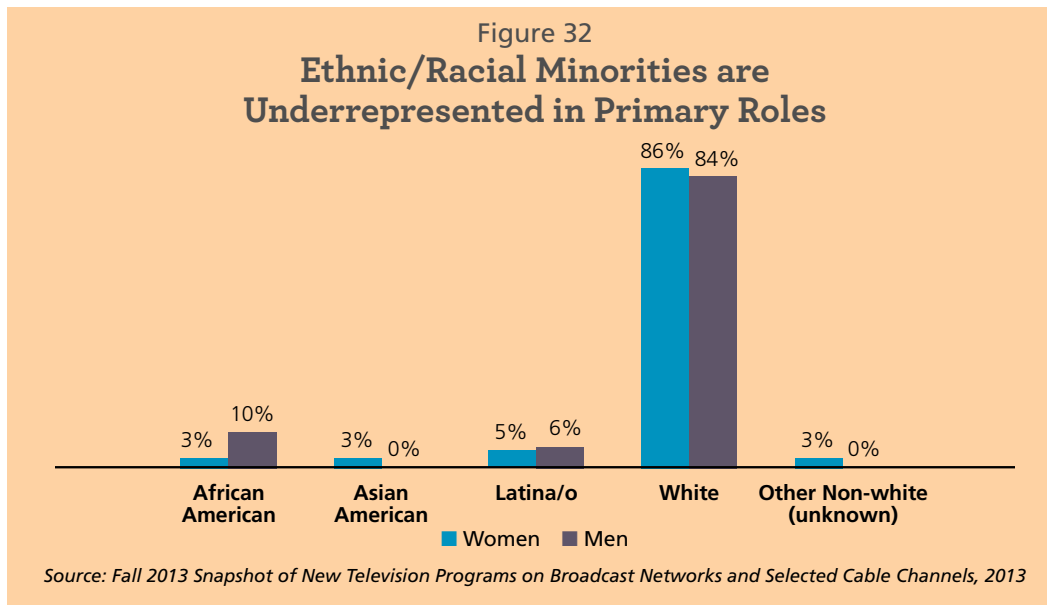
38 Lauzen, Martha. Boxed In: Employment of Behind-the-Scenes and On-Screen Women in 2012-13 Prime-time Television, Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film, San Diego State University (2013). Retrieved from [http://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu/files/2012-13\\_Boxed\\_In\\_Report.pdf](http://womenintvfilm.sdsu.edu/files/2012-13_Boxed_In_Report.pdf)

Equally noteworthy is the representation of women in the media. Traditionally, women actors in television and film have rarely been portrayed in professional or leadership positions. A Mount St. Mary's College review of 30 new television programs for fall 2013 revealed that more men play leading roles than women, and more than half of the female leads were portrayed as unskilled or having no jobs.<sup>39</sup>



<sup>39</sup> Haldeman, Pam. (2013). Fall 2013 Snapshot of New Television Programs on Broadcast Networks and Selected Cable Channels, Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles. Note: This study, commissioned by the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount St. Mary's College, focused on the 30 new, fictional shows that debuted in primetime (8-11 p.m.) in the fall of 2013 on broadcast and non-premium cable channels.

More than half of the female lead characters in the study were portrayed as unskilled or having no jobs; a third of the male characters were represented in the no employment or unskilled category.<sup>40</sup> In contrast, slightly less than a quarter of women were portrayed as professional, while a third of the male roles portrayed men in professional roles. This gap has narrowed somewhat relative to fall 2012 data reported for *all* primetime programs — from 30% fewer women in professional roles to 11% fewer women represented in *new* fall 2013 programming.



Most of the primary and secondary characters in fall 2013's new, primetime television shows included in the study were white, with 86% white female lead characters and 79% white female secondary characters.

<sup>40</sup> Five categories of occupations for women were created for the purposes of this study:

- None/unskilled — characters who demonstrated no occupation, attended school, or had an unskilled occupation.
- Service sector — characters who worked as waitress/waiter or clerk.
- Skilled/white collar — characters who work in an office setting.
- Professional — occupations requiring advanced education, high levels of leadership skills, power and influence.
- Retired or older.

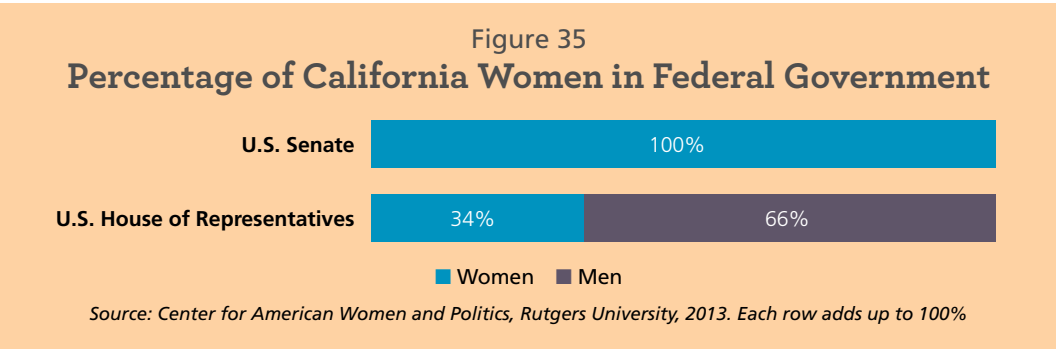
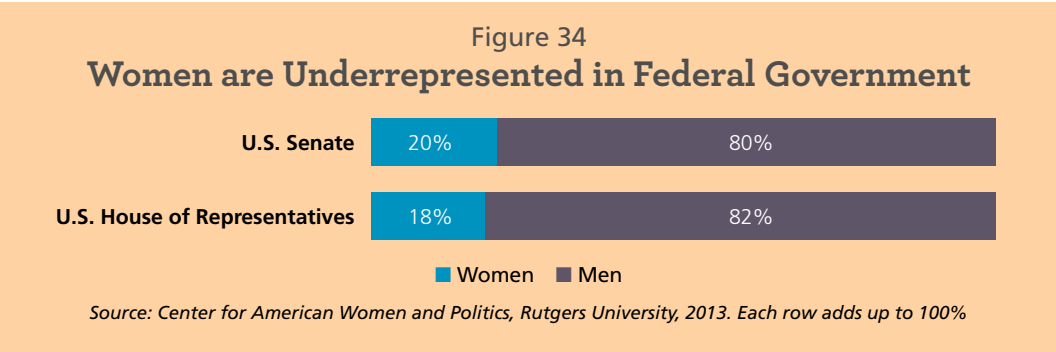
# Leadership

## PUBLIC SECTOR



Women are underrepresented in federal, state and local government. In California, significant gender gaps exist in the numbers of women among California's political leaders. Since 2005, California has dropped from 10th place to 19th place in the number of women serving in state legislative office.

## National Representation

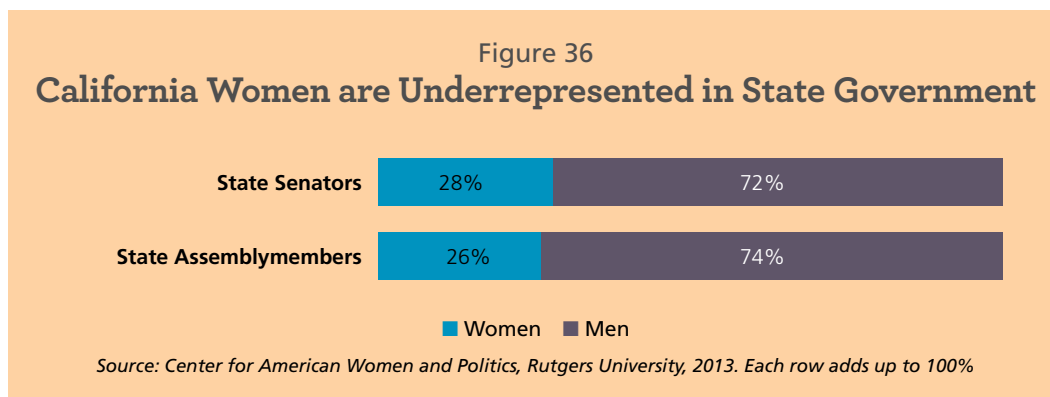


California was the first state to be represented by two women in the U.S. Senate.<sup>41</sup> The state has 53 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives; 18 are women and, of those, 10 are women of color.<sup>42</sup> They include three African Americans, two Asian/Pacific Islanders and five Latinas.<sup>43</sup>

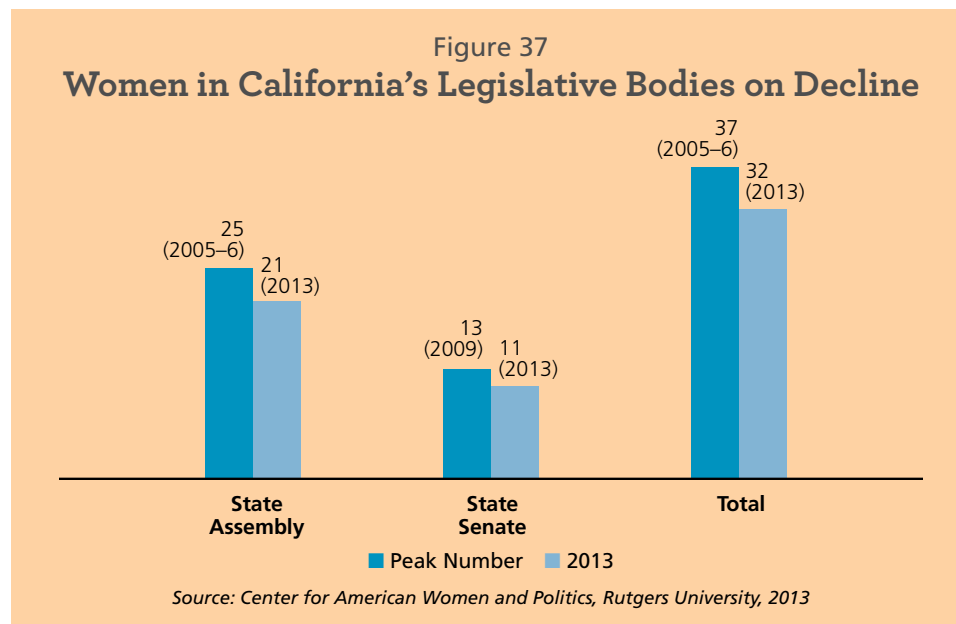
The first U.S. Congresswoman to have served as Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi is from California. She currently serves as minority leader. The number of women serving in the House peaked between 2007-2012, when 21 congresswomen served from California. The number dropped to 18 California female representatives in 2013.

### State Representation

Two out of eight elected officials in California's executive branch are women: the Attorney General and the Secretary of State. Only nine women have been elected to serve in California's executive branch since 1967. Attorney General Kamala Harris, elected in 2010, is serving in the highest state office ever held by a woman in California.



In the California legislature, 28% of state senators and 26% of assemblymembers are women. These statistics are roughly equivalent to national numbers, where 21% of all state senators and 26% of all state House seats are held by women.<sup>44</sup>



41 Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. (2013). Retrieved from [http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast\\_facts/levels\\_of\\_office/documents/dong.pdf](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/documents/dong.pdf)

42 CAWP. (2013). Retrieved from [http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast\\_facts/resources/state\\_fact\\_sheets/CA.php](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/resources/state_fact_sheets/CA.php)

43 CAWP. Retrieved from [http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast\\_facts/women\\_of\\_color/elective\\_office.php](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/women_of_color/elective_office.php)

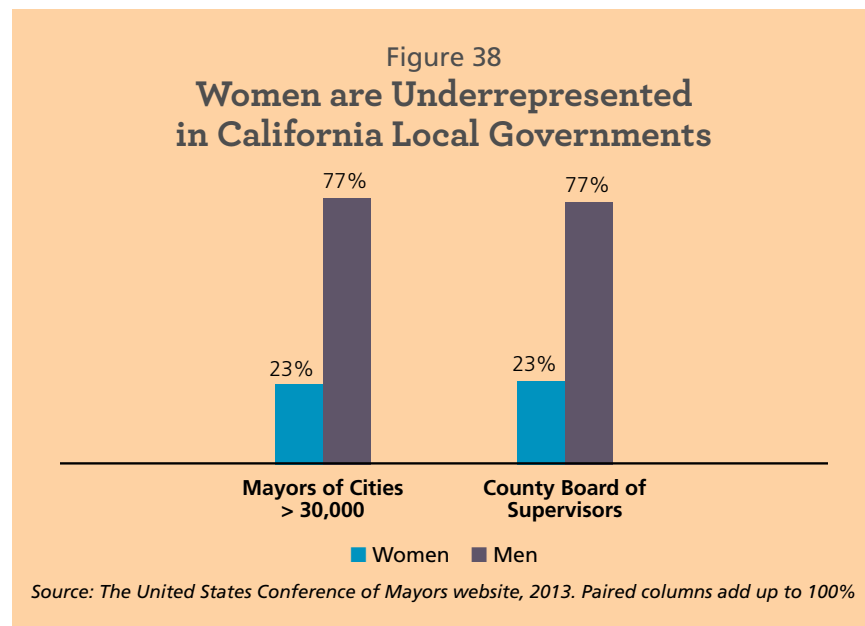
44 CAWP. (2013). Retrieved from [http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast\\_facts/levels\\_of\\_office/documents/stleg.pdg](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/levels_of_office/documents/stleg.pdg)

Although the total number of women representatives in the California State Assembly grew from 16 members in 1991 to its highest count of 25 members in 2005-6, female participation in California's legislature has since declined.<sup>41</sup> Today, the Assembly has a total of 80 members, of whom 21 are women (including 13 women of color).<sup>42</sup> This includes three African Americans, four Asian Americans and six Latinas.

The California State Senate consists of 11 women among its 40 senators. Of the 11 women, three are women of color: one Asian American, one Latina, and one African American.<sup>45</sup> The number of females serving in the Senate peaked in 2009, when there were 13 women.<sup>41</sup>

In 2005, the number of total females elected to California's Senate and Assembly peaked at 37 out of 120 total members. As a result, California ranked 10th in the United States for the number of females serving in state legislature. The number of women serving in California's legislature dropped to 32 females in 2012, and the state now ranks 19th in the nation.<sup>41</sup>

### Local Representation



There are 482 incorporated cities in California; 239 cities have a population of 30,000 or greater. Fifty-five of California's cities with a population of 30,000 or greater, or 23%, are served by female mayors.<sup>46</sup>

There are 58 counties in California, each governed by a Board of Supervisors. Out of 296 total supervisors across all counties, in the fall of 2013 there were 69 female county supervisors in California (23%) and 227 males (77%).<sup>47</sup>

<sup>45</sup> California State Senate. (2013). Retrieved from <http://senate.ca.gov/senators>. Note: There is one vacancy among the state senators in fall 2013.

<sup>46</sup> The United States Conference of Mayors. (2013). Retrieved at <http://www.usmayors.org/meetmayors/mayorsatglance.asp>

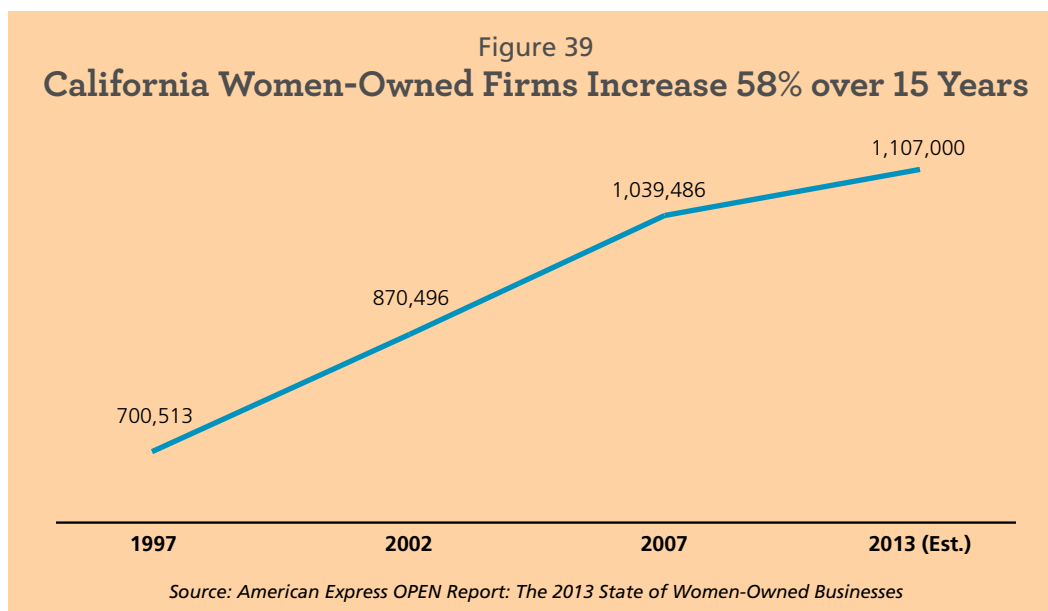
<sup>47</sup> California State Association of Counties. (2013). Retrieved at <http://www.csac.counties.org/county-websites-profile-information>

### PRIVATE SECTOR



#### Women-Owned Businesses

There are an estimated 8.6 million women-owned businesses in the United States, accounting for nearly 30% of all U.S. firms. Similarly, in California, women-owned businesses account for 30% of all firms.<sup>48</sup> Progress is being made in other areas as well. Last year saw an increase in the number of companies with females on their board of directors, and it was the first year when two companies in the Fortune 400 had a majority of women among their directors and highest-paid executives.



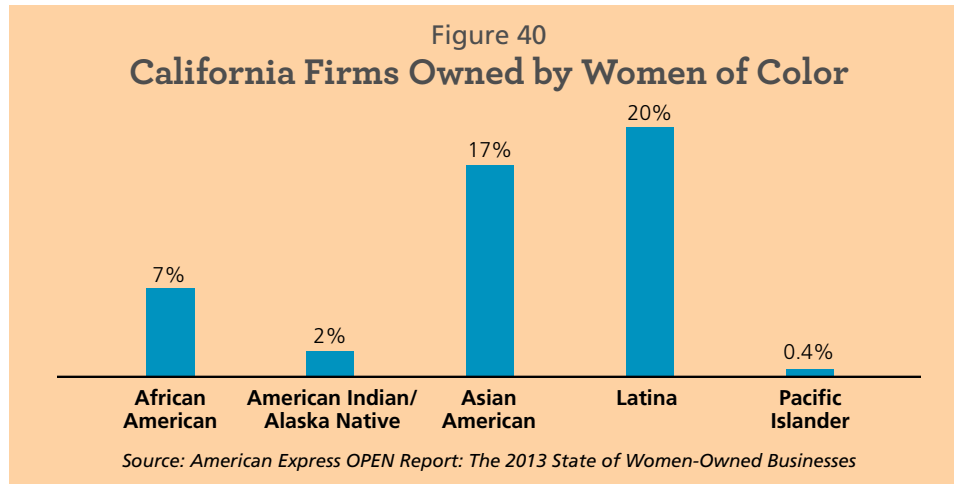
Compared with other states, California is home to the greatest number of women-owned businesses in the country (estimated at 1.1 million); it is the only state in which there are 1 million or more women-owned firms.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>48</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2007 Survey of Business Owners. Statistics for all U.S. Firms by Industry, Gender, Ethnicity and Race. (SB0700CSA01). Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

<sup>49</sup> American Express OPEN Report: The State of Women-Owned Businesses (2013).

## Ethnicity and Race

Across the country, slightly more than 30% of women-owned firms are owned by women of color.<sup>48</sup>



In California, women of color account for nearly half of women-owned companies. Latinas and Asian American women own 37% of these companies; American Indian/Alaska Native and African American women lead 9% of California's women-owned businesses.<sup>50</sup>

## Sizes of Women-Owned Businesses

Women-owned businesses in the United States employ 6% of the country's workforce. Nearly 90% of all women-owned businesses in the country employ no individuals other than the owner, and less than 1% of all women-owned businesses in the United States employ more than 20 employees.<sup>51</sup>

**Figure 41**  
**Sizes of California Women-Owned Firms by Race**

Occupation clusters	All firms (number)	% of firms with paid employees	Employees (number)
Non-minority-owned	589,025	12%	669,672
Owned by Women of color	468,523	9%	288,479
African American	64,997	4%	24,061
American Indian/ Alaska Native	18,844	4%	5,206
Asian American	175,493	16%	185,961
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3880	5%	2,624
Latina	205,309	6%	70,627

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010, Survey of Business Owners.*  
*Note: The total numbers include equally minority/nonminority-owned firms*

Although women-owned firms in California collectively employ nearly a million people, most are small businesses, with 89% having no paid employees. Sixteen percent of companies owned by Asian American women employ paid workers compared with 4% to 6% of African American, American Indian and Latina companies.<sup>52</sup>

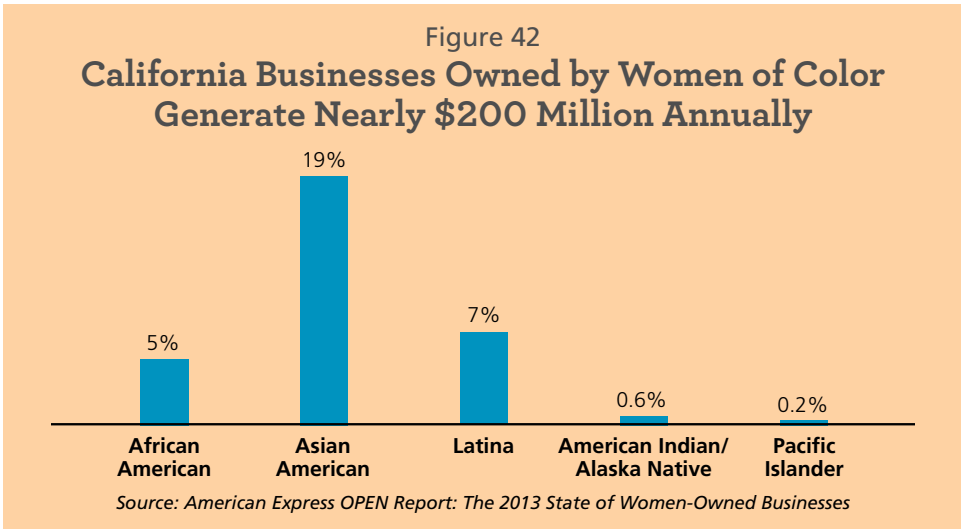
<sup>50</sup> American Express OPEN Report: The State of Women-Owned Businesses (2013).

<sup>51</sup> American Express OPEN Report: The State of Women-Owned Businesses (2013).

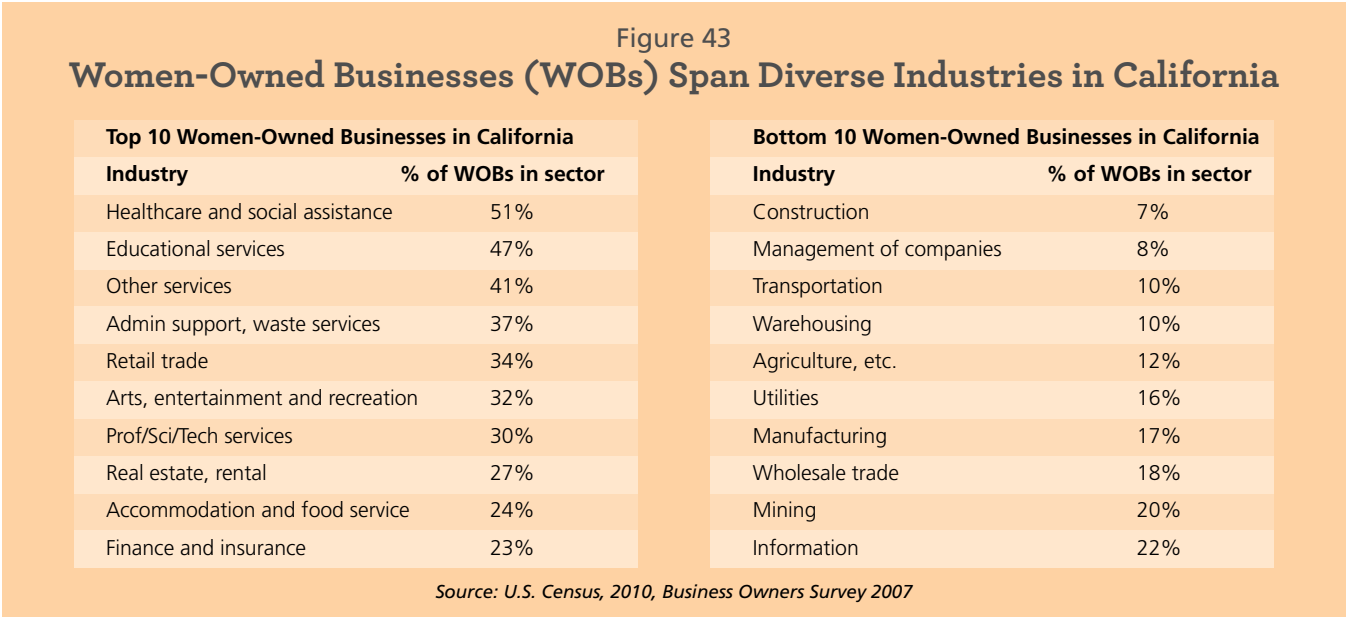
<sup>52</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2007 Survey of Business Owners. (SB0700CSA01).

Women-Owned Businesses and Revenue

Women-owned businesses in the United States generate more than \$1.3 trillion in revenues, contributing less than 4% of all business revenues generated by U.S. firms. Among these firms, a large majority (88%) generate less than \$100,000 in annual revenues; 4% of women-owned firms generate more than \$500,000.<sup>48</sup>



Women-owned businesses account for roughly 5% of annual sales and receipts of California firms. Companies owned by women of color account for almost one-third of the annual revenues of all women-owned firms.<sup>53</sup> In the United States, the majority of women-owned companies (17%) are in healthcare/social assistance. Roughly half of all healthcare and social assistance firms (53%) are owned by women and 45% of all firms providing educational services (private schools or education/training provider) are women-owned.<sup>48</sup>



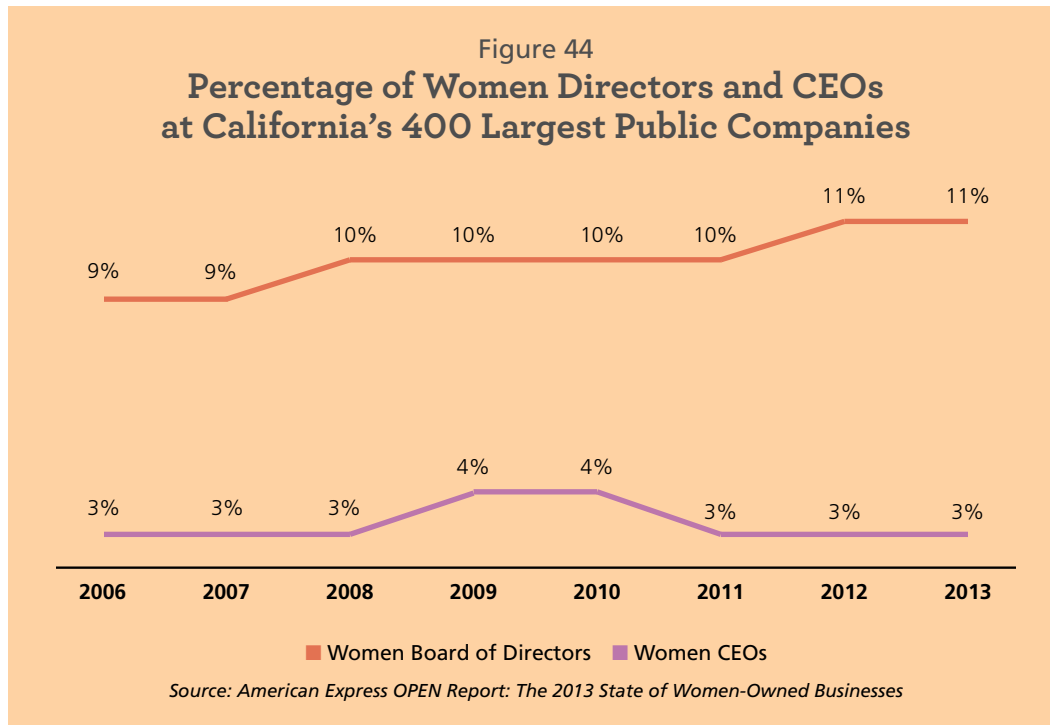
Considering all healthcare and social assistance businesses in the state, 51% are owned by women; 47% of businesses providing educational services are owned by women.<sup>54</sup>

53 American Express OPEN Report: The State of Women-Owned Businesses. (2013.) Retrieved from <https://www.openforum.com/articles/latest-trends-in-women-owned-businesses/>

54 U.S. Census Bureau. 2007 (SB0700CSA01). Retrieved from <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

### Representation of Women in Corporations

In California's 400 largest public companies, the California Fortune 400, women hold 11% of top positions.



While 27% of California 400 firms had no women among their directors and highest-paid executives in 2013, this represents an improvement from 2012, when 32% of the California 400 had no women among their highest ranks.<sup>55</sup>

No single company has an all-female board and management team. However, for the first time, in 2013, two California companies have a female majority (55%) among their directors and highest-paid executives. Women hold 11% of board seats and highest-paid executive positions — a 1% increase compared with the previous year.<sup>56</sup> Only 3% of the CEOs of California 400 firms are women, a statistic that remains unchanged from 2012.<sup>57</sup>

### Women Board Directors by Industry

While 60% of the 400 largest public companies in California have at least one female director, women are represented unevenly across industries. The industries in which companies are most likely to have at least one female director are utilities & telecommunications, financial services and consumer goods.<sup>49</sup>

<sup>55</sup> UC Davis Graduate School of Management in Partnership with Watermark. (2013). Retrieved from <http://gsm.ucdavis.edu/uc-davis-annual-study-california-women-business-leaders>

<sup>56</sup> UC Davis Graduate School of Management in Partnership with Watermark. (2013).

<sup>57</sup> UC Davis Graduate School of Management in Partnership with Watermark. (2013).

Figure 45  
**Fewer Than 20% of Directors in California are Female**

Industry	% Women directors	Industry revenues (B)	# Companies
Utilities & Telecommunications	17.8%	\$41.09	8
Consumer Goods	14.6%	\$220.52	54
Financial Services	14.1%	\$115.63	17
Real Estate	13.6%	\$22.22	30
Pharmaceuticals	11.6%	\$51.31	54
Technology Software	11.2%	\$181.17	69
Technology Hardware	10.7%	\$456.99	51
Health Care	10.6%	\$162.21	32
Energy, Materials & Industrials	9.0%	\$319.14	37
Semiconductors	4.8%	\$112.59	48

*Source: UC Davis Study of California Women Business Leaders, 2013*

While 75% of all companies in the utilities and communications sector have at least one woman on their board of directors, fewer than 20% of directors in the industry are female.

In September 2013, California passed a resolution (SCR-62) to encourage equitable and diverse gender representation on corporate boards. By December 2016, this resolution urges every public corporation in California to have at least three women on its board when there are nine or more director seats; when there are five to eight seats, at least two should be held by women; when there are fewer than five seats, at least one should be held by a woman. This resolution advises at least 20% representation on all boards.<sup>58</sup>

As of their most recent fiscal year, only 12% of the state's 400 largest public companies meet the standards of the resolution.

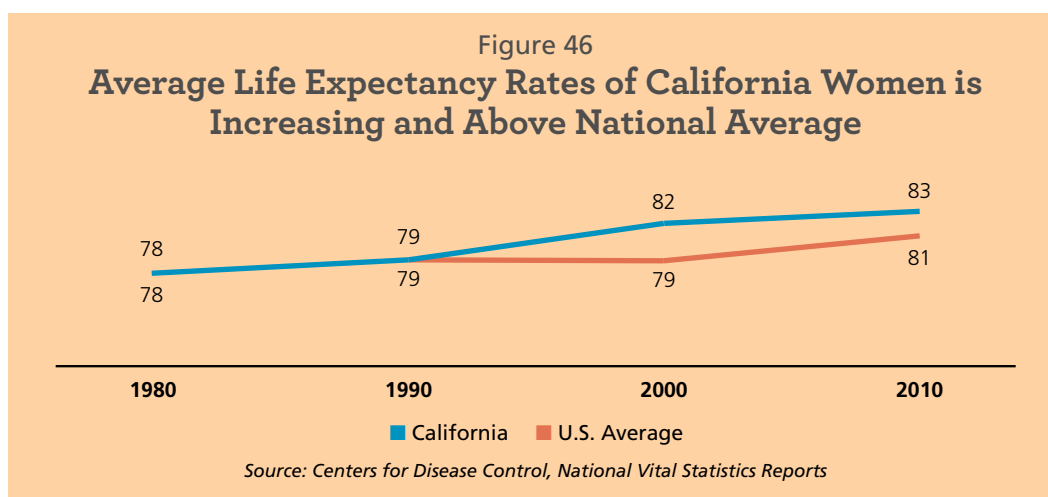
<sup>58</sup> Legislative Counsel of California. (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/>

# Physical Health



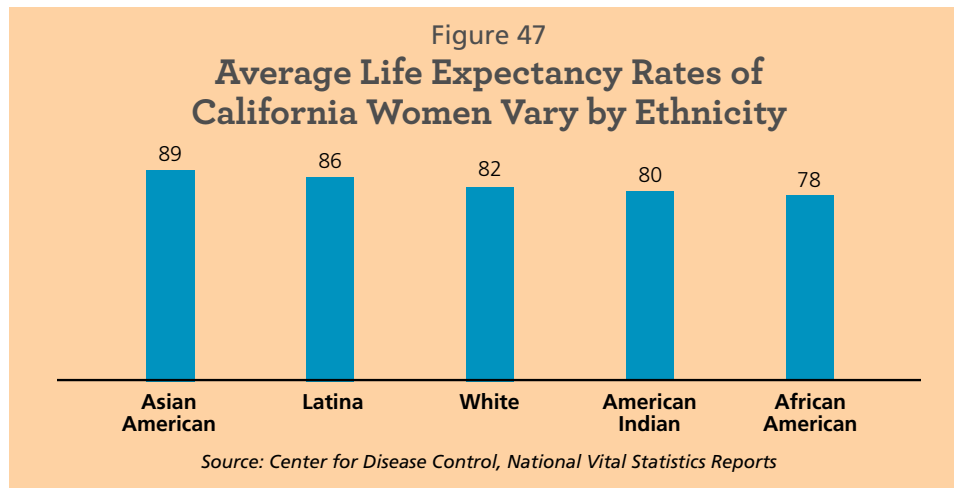
California women continue to show increasingly longer life expectancy. The state's women have slightly longer life expectancy than the national average. Health disparities based on ethnicity persist amongst California women; Asian American women have the longest life expectancy at 89 years and African American women have the shortest at 78 years. Obesity amongst California women continues to rise; however, women are less likely to be obese than men. An important factor in reducing childhood obesity is breastfeeding, and this, too, is rising among California women.

## Current Health Status



Today, California women have the third-highest life expectancy among the 50 states and Washington, D.C.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>59</sup> The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. (2013). Retrieved from <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/life-expectancy-by-gender/>



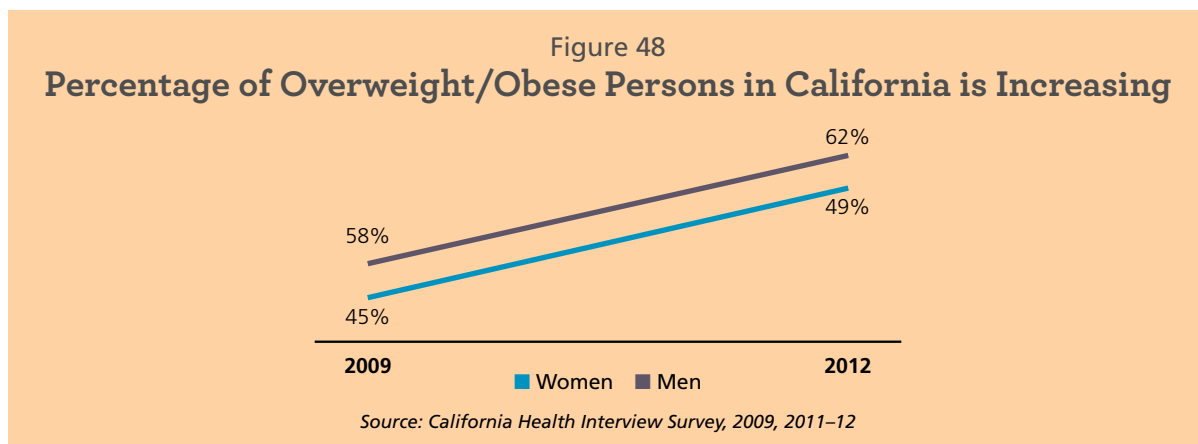
In California, Asian American women live longest (89 years), followed by Latinas (86). Nationally, Latinas live longest.

The leading causes of death by disease for California women of all ethnicities between ages 25 and 84 continues to be cancer and cardiac disease. For women over the age of 85, cardiac disease is the leading cause of death.

### Obesity

Obesity is determined by a measure of the body mass index (BMI): a BMI from 18.5–24.9 is considered “healthy weight,” a BMI from 25–29.9 is considered “overweight,” and a body mass from 30–99.8 is considered “obese.” In the 2011–12 California Health Interview Survey, more than half (55%) of all adults reported as overweight/obese.

Although the percentage of overweight/obese persons in California is increasing,<sup>60</sup> fewer California women are overweight than California’s men.<sup>61</sup>



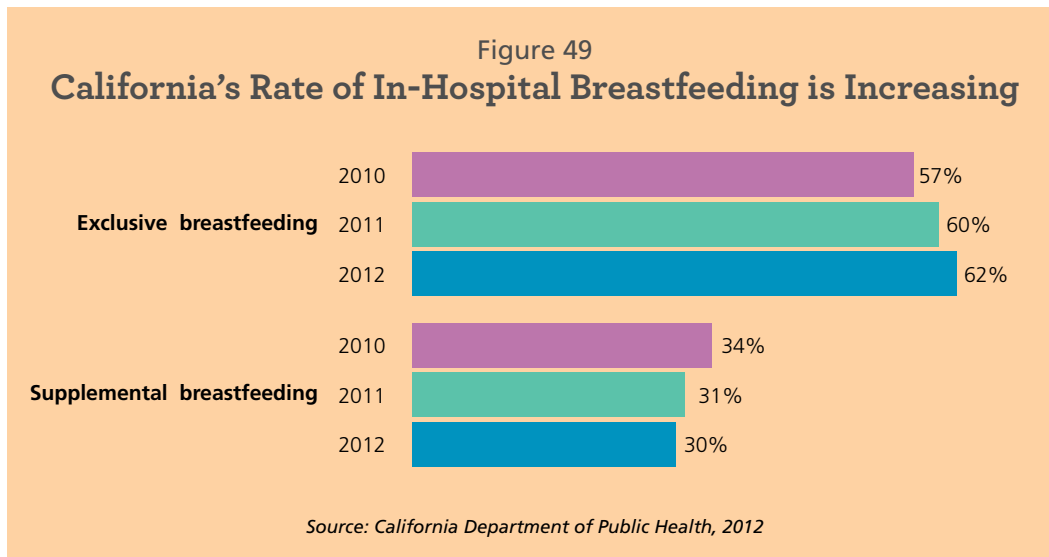
Breastfeeding has been shown to be an important factor in decreasing childhood obesity.<sup>62</sup> California is making progress on increasing the rate of in-hospital breastfeeding. The rate of exclusive breastfeeding has increased from 57% in 2010 to 62% in 2012.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>60</sup> UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (2012).

<sup>61</sup> UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (2012).

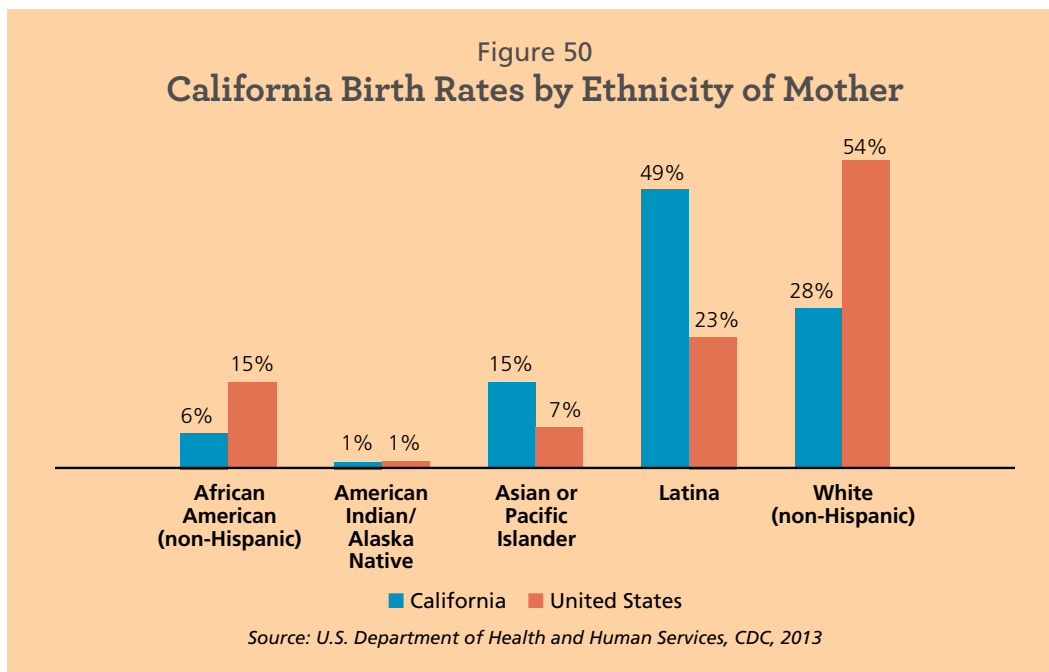
<sup>62</sup> White House Task Force on Childhood Obesity, Report to the President (2010). Retrieved from [http://www.letsmove.gov/sites/letsmove.gov/files/TaskForce\\_on\\_Childhood\\_Obesity\\_May2010\\_FullReport.pdf](http://www.letsmove.gov/sites/letsmove.gov/files/TaskForce_on_Childhood_Obesity_May2010_FullReport.pdf)

<sup>63</sup> State of California, Department of Public Health. (2011, 2012). Retrieved from <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/MO-MCAH-HospitalTotalsReport2012.pdf>; 2011 data: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/MO-BFP-HospitalTotalsReport-2011.pdf>



Improvements in breastfeeding are seen in all racial and ethnic groups.<sup>64</sup>

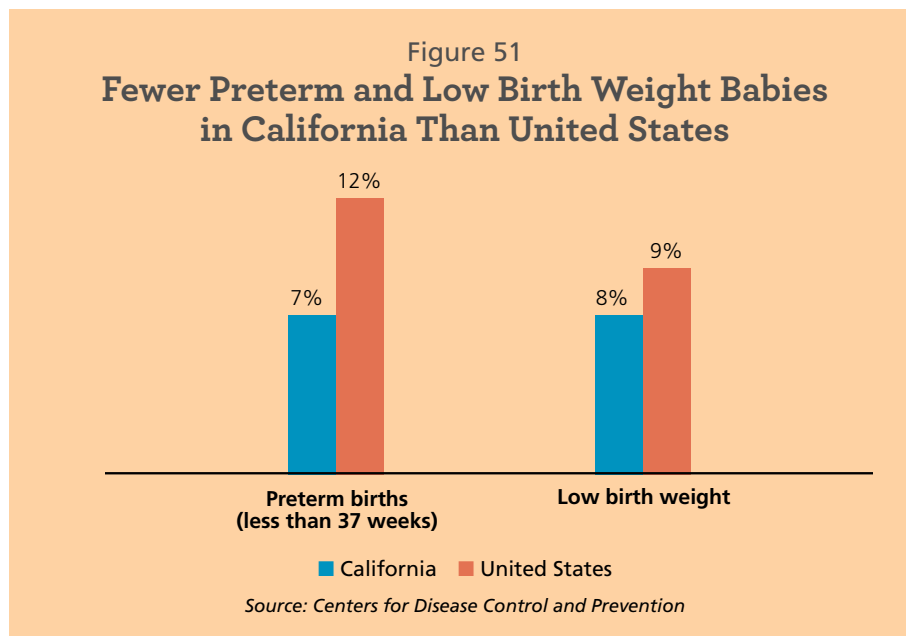
### Maternal and Infant Health



Nearly 13% of all babies born in the United States in 2012 were born in the state of California.<sup>65</sup> Nearly half of California's births are to mothers of Hispanic origin.

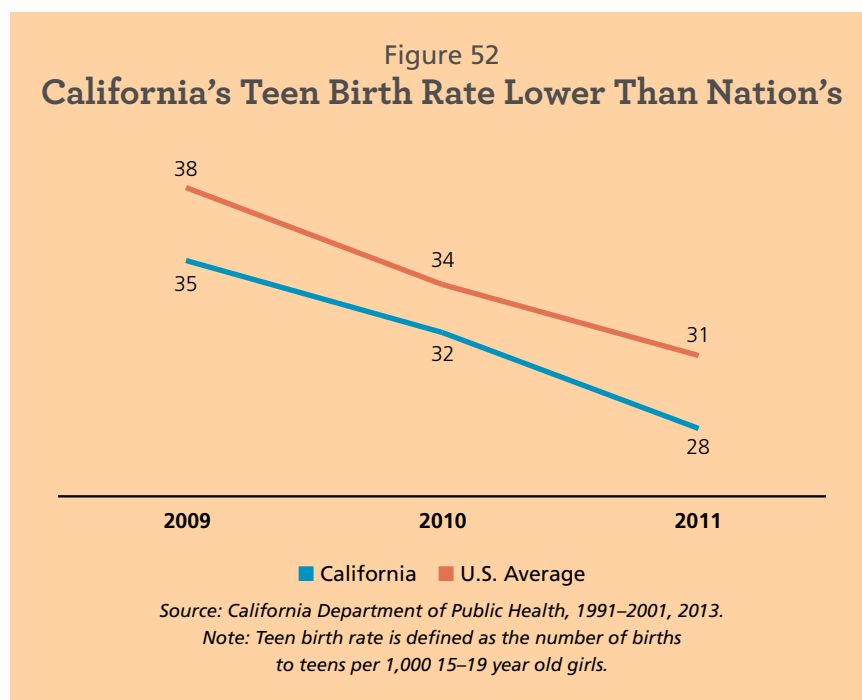
<sup>64</sup> Centers for Disease Control. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/pednss/pednss\\_tables/pdf/national\\_table19.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/pednss/pednss_tables/pdf/national_table19.pdf) Table 19D

<sup>65</sup> Hamilton, B., Martin, J. and Ventura, S. (2013, September 6). Vital Statistics, Volume 63, No. 3. Retrieved from [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_03.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_03.pdf)



While the national average for preterm births is 12%, the California average remains 7%.<sup>66</sup>

### Teen Birth Rates



The data above shows a slight decrease in teen births from 2009.<sup>67</sup> California's teen birth rate is 28 (per 1,000 girls, ages 15-19), lower than the United States as a whole.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>66</sup> [http://www.cc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62\\_03\\_tables.pdf](http://www.cc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr62/nvsr62_03_tables.pdf)

<sup>67</sup> California Department of Public Health. (2013, July 16). Retrieved from <http://www.cdph/NR13-030.aspx>

<sup>68</sup> California Department of Public Health. (2011). Retrieved from <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/mcah/Documents/MO-MCAH-2011TBR-DataSlides.pdf>

### Access to Healthcare

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act mandates access to certain healthcare services for women. Coverage in California can be obtained through the California Covered exchange.<sup>69</sup> Mandated coverage includes:

- Guaranteed access to additional preventative services without cost sharing. These services include mammograms, pap smears, colon cancer screenings, prenatal care, flu and pneumonia vaccines, and regular well-baby and well-child visits.
- Virtually no lifetime limits on healthcare coverage; this impacts nearly 4.5 million women and 3.2 million children.
- Children can no longer be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions. Women purchasing individual insurance will gain coverage for maternity services.
- Insurance companies will no longer be able to charge higher rates due to gender.
- 2.5 million California women are uninsured and will now be eligible for coverage through the ACA.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>69</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/bystate/ca.html>

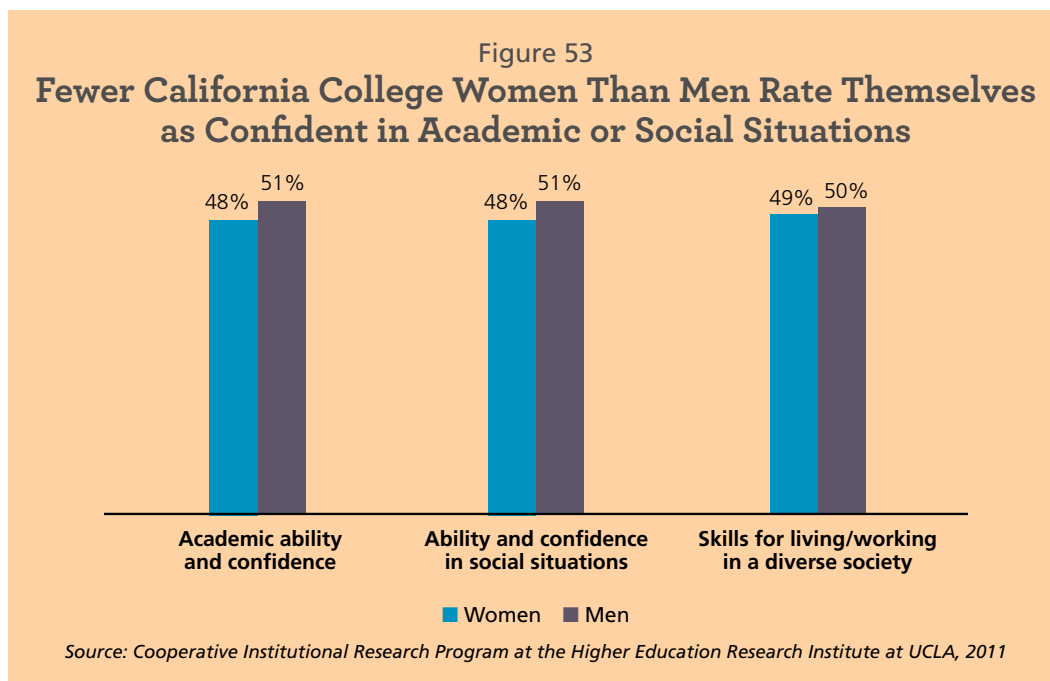
<sup>70</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/facts/factsheets/2012/03/women03202012a.html>.

# Mental Health



Mental health issues can range from a lack of self-confidence that interferes with daily life to serious psychological disorders, substance abuse, and suicide. Mental health is integrally tied to many aspects of living – such as work, education and psychological well-being.

## Psychological Wellbeing

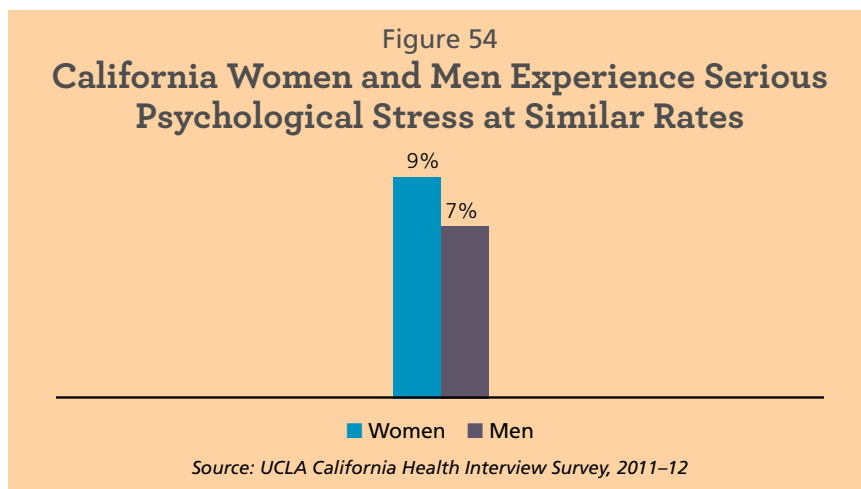


Only half of California's first-year college students rate themselves as confident when asked about their abilities and confidence in academic environments. A slightly higher percentage of males than females rated themselves positively. Similarly, males rated themselves higher in their abilities and confidence in social situations. Females and males were closely related in reporting about skills and dispositions appropriate for living and working in a diverse society.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>71</sup> Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) at the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA. (2013, November). Retrieved from <http://www.heri.ucla.edu/PDFs/pubs/TFS/Norms/Monographs/TheAmericanFreshman2011.pdf>

### Serious Psychological Distress

In 2010, 9% of the California female population reported serious psychological distress compared with 7% of the male population.<sup>72</sup> Serious psychological distress is based on factors such as the frequency of feelings of nervousness, hopelessness, restlessness and worthlessness.



### Substance Abuse and Treatment

Figure 55

**More California Girls Than Boys Treated for Methamphetamine and Inhalant Abuse**

Substance	Calif. girls	Calif. boys	% treated who are girls	U.S. girls	U.S. boys	% treated who are girls
Alcohol	1,512	1,916	44%	7,538	10,121	43%
Benzodiazepines	11	17	39%	289	332	47%
Cocaine/crack	71	85	46%	444	538	45%
Heroin	60	109	36%	624	592	51%
Inhalants	30	26	54%	149	207	42%
Marijuana	3,419	10,407	25%	18,808	64,442	23%
Methamphetamine	454	344	57%	674	493	58%
PCP	2	7	22%	11	17	39%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA)

Overall, California girls seek treatment for marijuana more than any other substance, followed by alcohol and then methamphetamine use, a trend also noted for California women.<sup>73</sup> Results for adolescents are mostly consistent with national statistics, with many more boys than girls seeking treatment for marijuana and PCP, while girls are more likely to seek treatment for abuse of methamphetamine.<sup>74</sup> California female adolescents are also more likely than boys to be treated for abuse of inhalants.

72 UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (2013). Retrieved from <http://ask.chis.ucla.edu>

73 2013 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California, Figure 40 from Smith, S., Chouetti, M., Prescott, A., & Pieper, K. (2012). Retrieved from <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/>

74 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA). Retrieved from <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/SAMHDA/download>

## Suicide

Figure 56  
Fewer California Females Than Males  
Die as a Result of Suicide

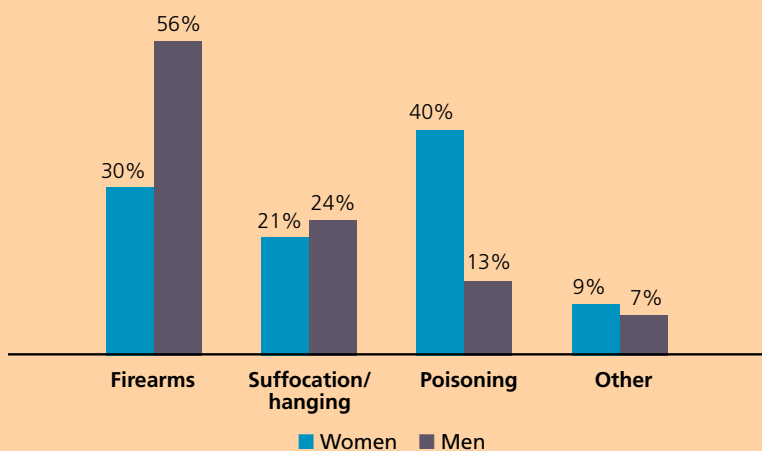
	Total number of deaths	Deaths by suicide	Suicide as a % of all deaths
Females	115,289	863	0.7%
Males	117,854	2972	2.5%
Overall	233,143	3835	1.6%

Source: State of California, Department of Public Health, Death Records, 2010

Suicide ranks as the 10th cause of death in the United States, and third among youths ages 15-24 years.<sup>75</sup> In 2010, an average of one individual killed him/herself every 13.7 minutes (105 suicides per day). Overall, there were 38,364 suicides in United States: 30,277 were males and 8,087 were females. The annual overall suicide rate was 12.4 per 100,000 individuals nationwide; the suicide rate for females was 5 per 100,000. In California, fewer women than men commit suicide.<sup>76</sup> Among all of the states, California ranked No. 44 in overall suicidal deaths; No. 36 in female suicides, and No. 44 in male suicides.<sup>77</sup>

Firearms account for half of total deaths by suicide in the United States, while the other half are accounted for by suffocation/hanging (25%), poisoning (17%), cutting/piercing (2%) and other methods (4%).<sup>73</sup>

Figure 57  
Most Female Suicides in U.S. are from Poisoning



Females choose to commit suicide by poisoning more than any other method, while most males commit suicide using a firearm.<sup>78</sup>

75 American Association of Suicidology. (2010, September 12). Retrieved from [http://www.suicidology.org/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?folderId=262&name=DLFE-635.pdf](http://www.suicidology.org/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=262&name=DLFE-635.pdf)

76 State of California, Department of Public Health. Retrieved from <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Documents/VSC-2010-0507.pdf>

77 American Association of Suicidology. Retrieved from [http://www.suicidology.org/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?folderId=262&name=DLFE-628.pdf](http://www.suicidology.org/c/document_library/get_file?folderId=262&name=DLFE-628.pdf)

78 National Institute of Mental Health. Retrieved from <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/suicide-in-the-us-statistics-and-prevention/index.shtml#risk>

Figure 58  
**Over Half of California Suicide Attempts are by Women**

	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>% of Females</b>
Self-inflicted, non-fatal injuries*	9,293	6,269	60%
Fatal Injuries**	808	2,717	23%

*Source: California Department of Public Health, 2006, 2007*  
*Note: \*Self-Inflicted Injuries, 2006—Non-fatal Hospitalized Injuries California Residents;*  
*\*\*Self-Inflicted Injuries, 2007—Fatal Injuries, California Residents*

Not all suicide attempts end in death.<sup>79</sup> In general, more females than males attempt suicides that result in hospitalization.<sup>80</sup>

79 State of California, Department of Public Health, EPIC Branch. (2007). Retrieved from [http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/epicdata/scripts/broker.exe?\\_SERVICE=Pool2&\\_PROGRAM=programs.st\\_selfinflicted.sas&REGION0=XXX&ANALYSIS1=A&REGION=California&OUTPUT=HTML&pf=%2Fepicdata%2Fcontent%2Fst\\_suicide.htm&pt=epicdata%2Fcontent%2F&nfs\\_id](http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/epicdata/scripts/broker.exe?_SERVICE=Pool2&_PROGRAM=programs.st_selfinflicted.sas&REGION0=XXX&ANALYSIS1=A&REGION=California&OUTPUT=HTML&pf=%2Fepicdata%2Fcontent%2Fst_suicide.htm&pt=epicdata%2Fcontent%2F&nfs_id)

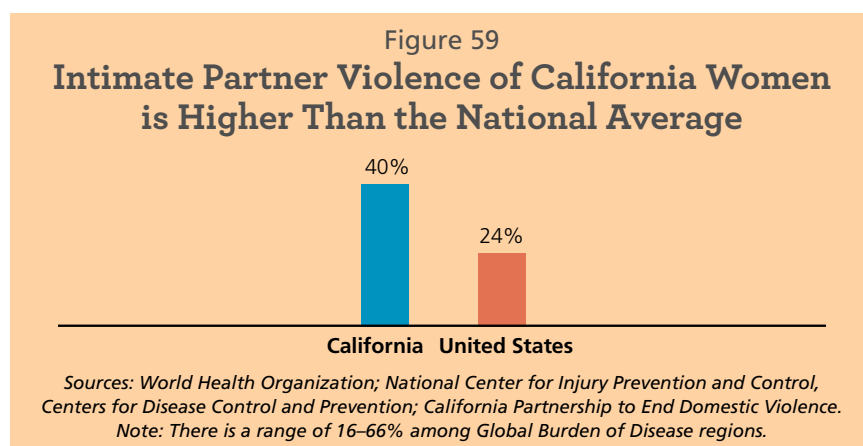
80 State of California, Department of Public Health, EPIC Branch. (2006). Retrieved from [http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/epicdata/scripts/broker.exe?\\_SERVICE=Pool2&\\_PROGRAM=programs.st\\_selfinflicted.sas&REGION0=XXX&ANALYSIS1=B&REGION=California&OUTPUT=HTML&pf=%2Fepicdata%2Fcontent%2Fst\\_suicide.htm&pt=epicdata%2Fcontent%2F&nfs\\_id](http://www.apps.cdph.ca.gov/epicdata/scripts/broker.exe?_SERVICE=Pool2&_PROGRAM=programs.st_selfinflicted.sas&REGION0=XXX&ANALYSIS1=B&REGION=California&OUTPUT=HTML&pf=%2Fepicdata%2Fcontent%2Fst_suicide.htm&pt=epicdata%2Fcontent%2F&nfs_id)

# Violence



Due to its high prevalence and negative consequences, violence against women and girls is considered a major public health problem.<sup>81</sup> Violence against women and girls includes, but is not limited to: rape, physical violence, verbal and emotional abuse, trafficking, bullying, stalking, sexual violence/torture during war or armed conflicts, and sexual harassment.<sup>82</sup> Women and men on active duty in the military also experience unwanted sexual contact and new legislation amends court-martial procedures to encourage reporting and improve procedural protections.

## Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)



In a 2010 survey, approximately 40% of California<sup>83</sup> adult females reported experiencing IPV during their lifetime, which is higher than the 24% of women in the United States who have experienced physical violence by an intimate

81 World Health Organization. (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241564625/en/>

82 World Health Organization. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/publications/violence/med\\_leg\\_guidelines/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/publications/violence/med_leg_guidelines/en/)

83 California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.cpedv.org/Statistics>

partner.<sup>84</sup> The highest incidence of IPV in California was among women ranging from 18-24 years of age. This age group was 11% more likely to experience physical violence by an intimate partner than women in other age groups. Dating violence (mainly hitting and slapping) among California teenagers was reported by almost 10% of students in 7th grade, 5% in 9th grade and 11% in 11th grade.<sup>85</sup>

From 2008 to 2011 there was a 30% increase in homicides of women by an intimate or former intimate partner.<sup>86</sup> In 2011, current and former intimate partners murdered a total of 129 women in California, accounting for nearly 12% of all homicides in California.

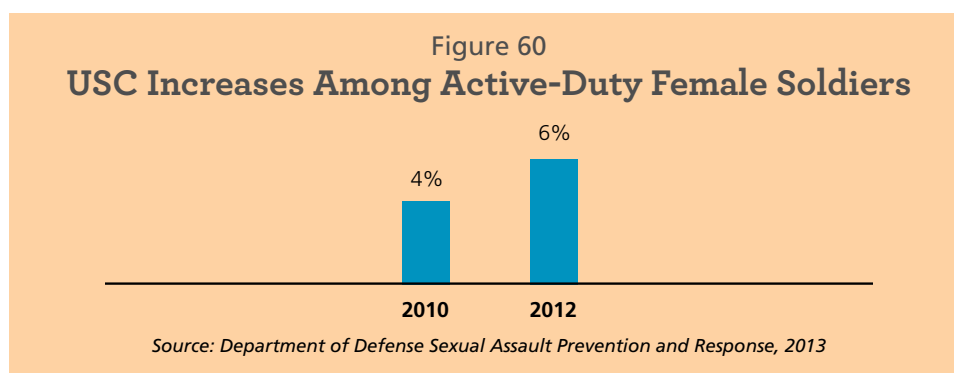
### Sexual Assault

Nearly 1 in 5 (18%) California women<sup>87</sup> report being raped at some time in their lives, a percentage that mirrors the national average. Nationally, 51% of female rape victims report being raped by an intimate partner and 41% reported they were raped by an acquaintance.<sup>88</sup>

Sexual assault is associated with the health of California women: Poor physical health was reported by 27% of female sexual assault victims in California and 30% reported poor mental health as a consequence of sexual assault.<sup>89</sup>

### Unwanted Sexual Contact (USC) in the Military

Federal law requires the Department of Defense to provide Congress with an annual report on sexual assaults involving members of the Armed Forces. The report includes a survey of the number of active duty military members who may have experienced unwanted sexual contact (USC).<sup>90</sup> USC is the survey term for contact sexual crimes between adults prohibited by military law, ranging from rape to abusive sexual contact.<sup>91</sup>



According to the Department of Defense, 15% of military personnel are female; 6% of active duty female soldiers have reported experiencing some form of sexual assault or sexual harassment, which is a statistically significant increase over the 4% USC rate of 2010.<sup>92</sup>

84 Black, N. et al. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS). (2011). 2010 Summary Report, Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

85 Austin, Gregory, and Rodney Skager, WestEd. (2011). Retrieved from [http://chks.wested.org/resources/css\\_13th\\_tables.pdf](http://chks.wested.org/resources/css_13th_tables.pdf)

86 California Partnership to End Domestic Violence. (2013). Retrieved from <http://www.cpedv.org/Statistics/Statistics and Facts>.

87 California Department of Health Care Services. (2010). (Vol. 6). Retrieved from <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/reports/Documents/OWHReports/DataPoints2006-2007/DP24.06-07.pdf>

88 Black, N. et al. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS). (2011). 2010 Summary Report, Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

89 California Department of Health Care Services. (2010). Retrieved from <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/reports/Documents/OWHReports/DataPoints2006-2007/DP24.06-07.pdf> California Women's Health Survey (Vol. 6).

90 Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. (2013). Retrieved from [http://www.sapr.mil/public/docs/reports/FY12\\_DoD\\_SAPRO\\_Annual\\_Report\\_on\\_Sexual\\_Assault-VOLUME\\_ONE.pdf](http://www.sapr.mil/public/docs/reports/FY12_DoD_SAPRO_Annual_Report_on_Sexual_Assault-VOLUME_ONE.pdf)

91 Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. (2013).

92 Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response. (2013).

The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act<sup>93</sup> changes military court-martial procedures involving sexual assault to:

- Strip military commanders of their ability to overturn jury convictions;
- Require a civilian review if a commander declines to prosecute a case;
- Require that any individual convicted of sexual assault face a dishonorable discharge or dismissal;
- Provide the victims with legal counsel;
- Eliminate statutes of limitations; and
- Criminalize retaliation against victims who report a sexual assault.

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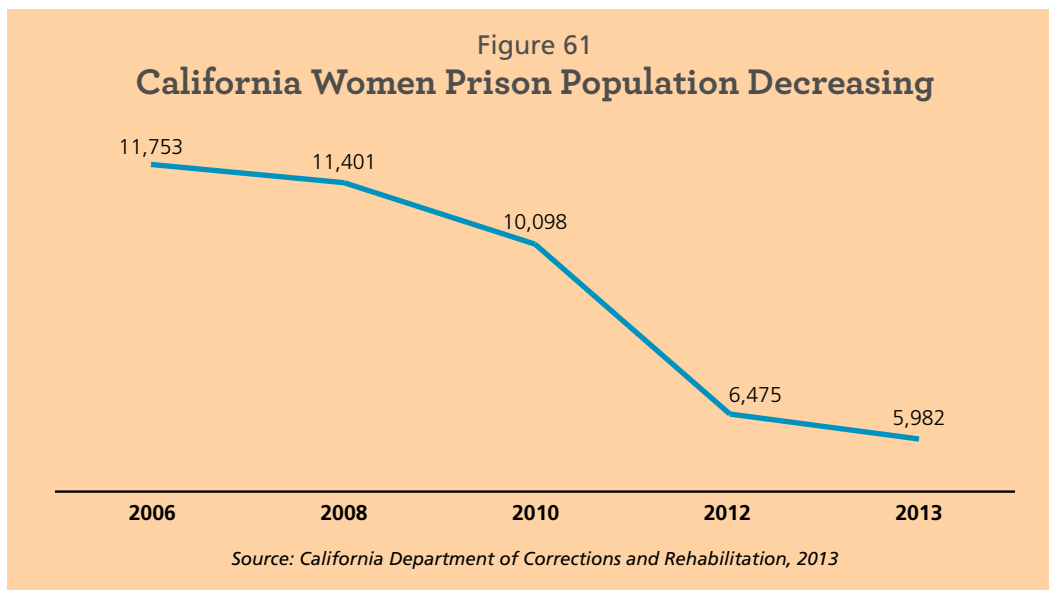
93 H.R. 3304, signed into law by President Obama on Dec. 26, 2013. Public law number not yet available.

# Incarceration



In 2013, there were nearly 6,000 females in California prisons; 36% of these females were convicted in 2012. The total number of women in prison in California has been decreasing over the past seven years. The average age of the female felon is 38, with most convictions resulting from offenses against persons.<sup>94</sup>

## Incarceration Rates



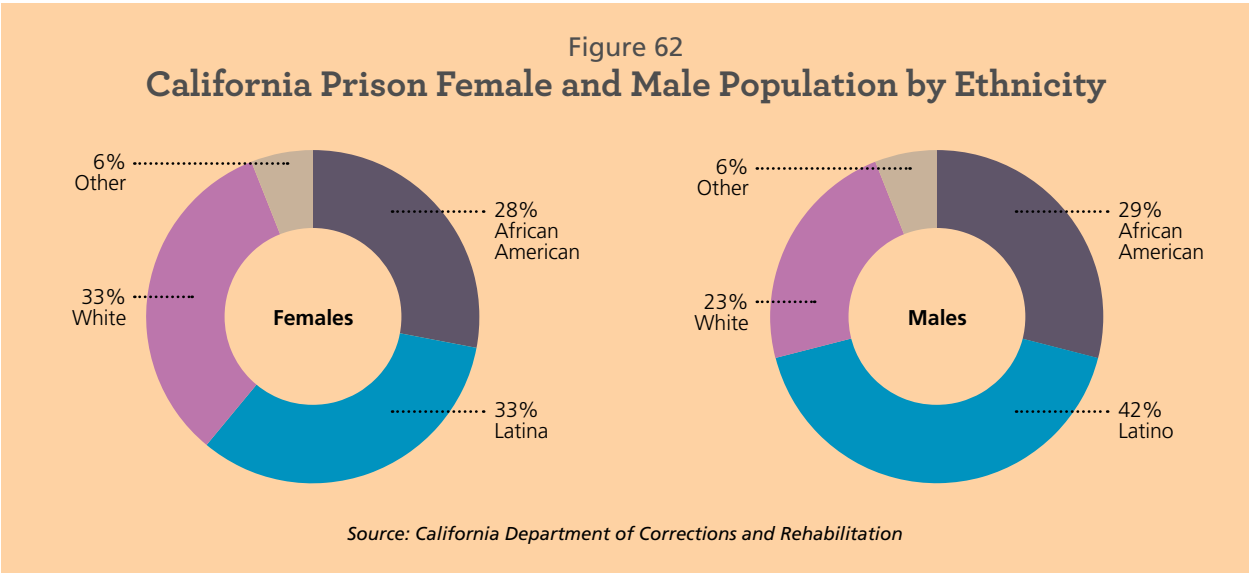
Over the past seven years, the number of female inmates in California has decreased by nearly 50%, from 11,753 to 5,982.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>94</sup> California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Offender Information Services Branch. (2013). Retrived from [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports\\_research/offender\\_information\\_services\\_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1306.pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports_research/offender_information_services_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1306.pdf)

<sup>95</sup> California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Offender Information Services Branch. (2013). Retrived from [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports\\_Research/Offender\\_Information\\_Services\\_Branch/Population\\_Reports.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Reports_Research/Offender_Information_Services_Branch/Population_Reports.html); [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports\\_research/offender\\_information\\_services\\_branch/Annual/CensusArchive.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports_research/offender_information_services_branch/Annual/CensusArchive.html) for 2012/2013

Demographics

Women comprise nearly 5% (5,982 females) of a total population in California prisons of 134,160.



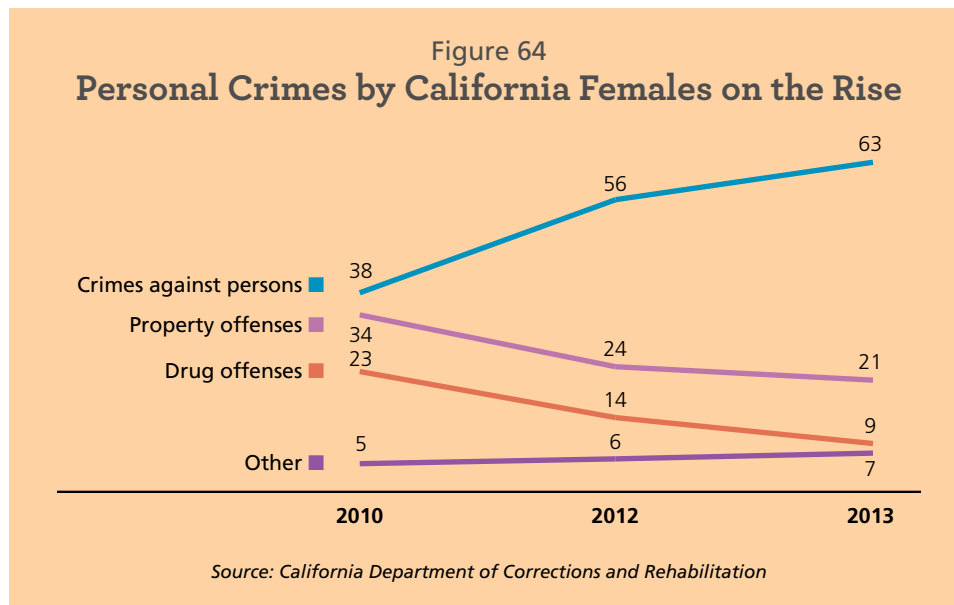
The California female prison population is 33% white, 33% Latina, and 28% African American.<sup>96</sup> In comparison to the California female population statewide<sup>97</sup>, African American women are overrepresented in the prison population; whereas there are proportionately fewer white women in the prison population than in the state’s population.<sup>98</sup>

96 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Offender Information Services Branch. (2013). Retrieved from [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports\\_research/offender\\_information\\_services\\_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1306.pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports_research/offender_information_services_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1306.pdf)

97 California Department of Finance. (2012, September). Retrieved from <http://dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/>

98 California Department of Finance. (2010). Retrieved from [www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/data/race-ethnic/2000-2010/index.php](http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/data/race-ethnic/2000-2010/index.php)

## Prevalent Offenses



Crimes against persons continue to account for most convictions of California women and are on the rise.<sup>99</sup>

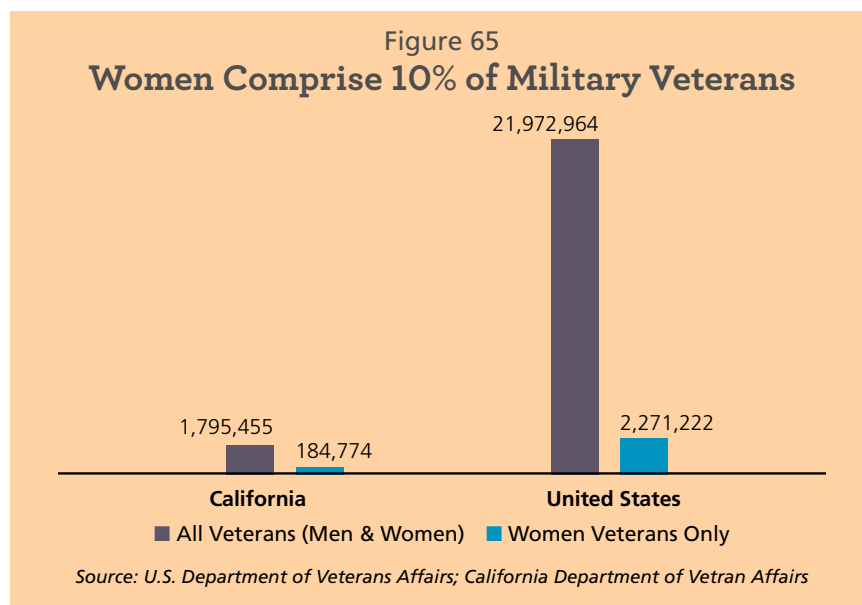
99 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Offender Information Services Branch. (2010, 2012, 2013). 2010 data retrieved from: [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports\\_research/offender\\_information\\_services\\_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1006.pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports_research/offender_information_services_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1006.pdf); 2012 data: [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports\\_research/offender\\_information\\_services\\_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1206.pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports_research/offender_information_services_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1206.pdf); 2013 data: [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports\\_research/offender\\_information\\_services\\_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1306.pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/reports_research/offender_information_services_branch/Annual/Census/CENSUSd1306.pdf)

# Veterans



In January 2013, the U.S. military formally ended its ban on women serving in front-line combat roles, opening up new opportunities for female servicemembers. Today, women comprise approximately 15% of all active duty military personnel and 18% of all National Guard and Reserves. While women receive many benefits as members of the Armed Forces, there are also challenges for these women, including access to healthcare and potential homelessness once they return to civilian life as veterans.

## Veteran Demographics



The total veteran population in the United States and Puerto Rico, as of Sept. 30, 2013, reached nearly 22 million; 1.8 million veterans reside in California. Both nationally and in California, women comprise 10% of the veteran population.<sup>100</sup> This number is projected to grow to 12% in the year 2020,<sup>101</sup> and is expected to rise.<sup>102</sup>

<sup>100</sup> National Statistics-Resource: <http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/docs/WomenVeteransPopulationFactSheet.pdf> California Statistics-Resource: [http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran\\_Population.asp](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Veteran_Population.asp)

<sup>101</sup> Retrieved from [www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/quickfacts/Population\\_slideshow.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/quickfacts/Population_slideshow.pdf) Office of the Actuary, Veteran Population Projections Model (VetPop2011), Table 1L.

<sup>102</sup> [www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/quickfacts/Population\\_slideshow.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/quickfacts/Population_slideshow.pdf) for plot. California Veteran Population Estimates by Gender (Source: USDVA VetPop 2011) Online table at California Department of Veteran Affairs

Figure 66  
**Number of U.S. Female Veterans is Projected to Rise**

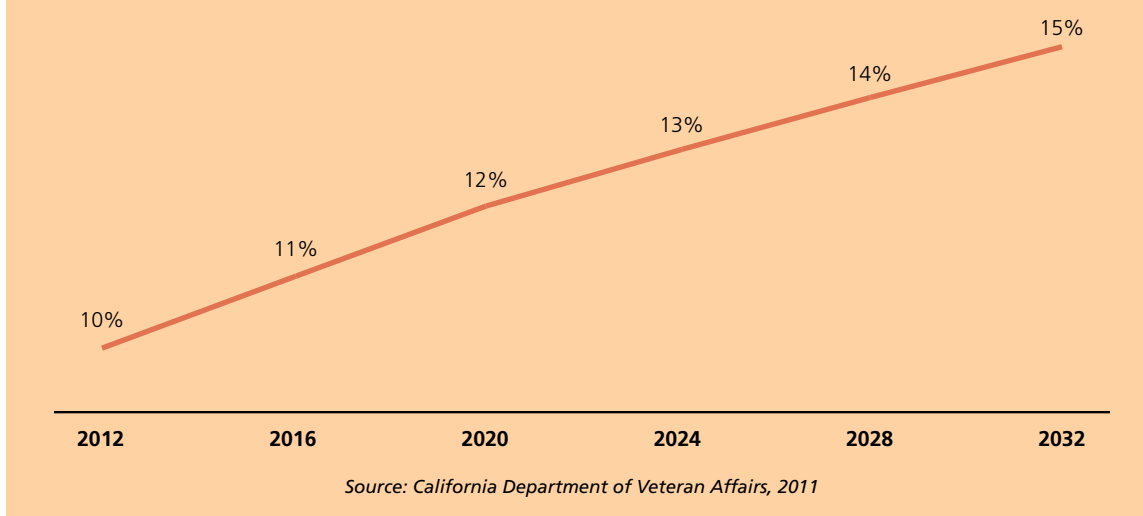
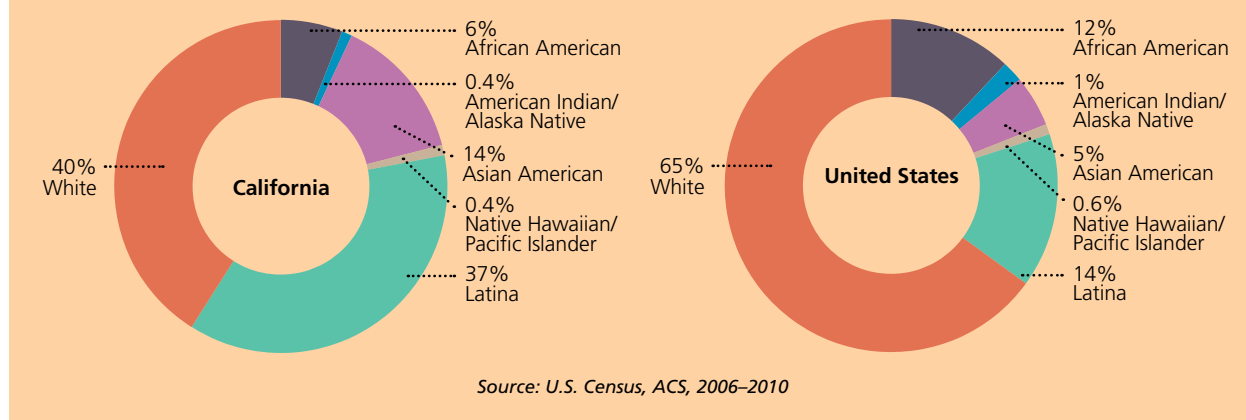


Figure 67  
**Ethnic Composition of California Women Veterans**



While female veterans are ethnically diverse, the majority are white women.<sup>103</sup>

<sup>103</sup> <http://factfinder2.census.gov/ Table B21001 for California, 2006-2010 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables: Sex by Age by Veteran Status for Civilian Population 18 years and over>

## Healthcare

Access to healthcare has proved challenging to veterans, especially female veterans.<sup>104</sup> Nationally, the number of women veterans is growing rapidly, with increasing demands for healthcare. Currently, 6% of all VA healthcare users are female.

**Figure 68**  
**Majority of Women in VA Healthcare are Over 45**

Age Group	Predominant Veteran Subgroup	% Women VA Healthcare Users
65 +		14%
45–64	Vietnam/Gulf War 1	44%
44 years or less	OEF/OIF/OND	42%

*Source: Department of Veterans Affairs*

While the largest sub-population of female veterans is older, there is an influx of younger veterans since Operation Enduring Freedom (October 2001-March 2001), Operation Iraqi Freedom (March 2003-September 2012), and Operation New Dawn (September 2010-December 2011) (OEF/OIF/OND). Of veterans in this sub-population, 77% are 40 years or younger and half are 30 years or younger.<sup>105</sup>

Over half (56%) of female OEF/OIF/OND veterans have received VA health care. Of this group, nearly 90% have used VA healthcare services multiple times; 54% have used VA healthcare 11 or more times.<sup>101</sup>

## Homelessness and Trauma

According to research, 81% to 93% of women veterans experienced factors known to increase homelessness<sup>106</sup>, such as trauma, childhood abuse, domestic violence, sexual trauma while serving in the military, and combat-related trauma.<sup>107</sup> Female veterans are the fastest-growing segment of the state's homeless population.<sup>108</sup> It is estimated that 13% of all homeless in California are veterans, which is roughly 25% of the entire veteran homeless population in the United States.

<sup>104</sup> Women veterans often do not self-identify as veterans for a variety of reasons. This may act as a barrier to accessing the services they need and applying for the benefits to which they are entitled: <http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/Women/VAReportAmericaWomenVets.pdf>; America's Women Veterans: Military Service History and VA Benefit Utilization Statistics, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Department of Veteran Affairs. (November 2011) Figure 16.

<sup>105</sup> [http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/docs/WH\\_facts\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/docs/WH_facts_FINAL.pdf) Department of Veterans Affairs, Women Veterans Health Care Fact Sheet (2012)

<sup>106</sup> [http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/County\\_HomelessPopulation.pdf](http://www.calvet.ca.gov/Files/VetServices/County_HomelessPopulation.pdf); or [https://www.onecpd.info/reports/CoC\\_PopSub\\_State\\_CA\\_2012.pdf](https://www.onecpd.info/reports/CoC_PopSub_State_CA_2012.pdf) for estimated homeless and homeless veterans population

<sup>107</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.dol.gov/wb/trauma/WBTraumaGuide2011.pdf> U.S. Department of Labor, Women's Bureau. Trauma-informed care for women veterans experiencing homelessness. A guide for service providers. (Original source: Zinzow et al. 2007: "Trauma among female veterans: A critical review." *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, 8, 384-400)

<sup>108</sup> <http://ahcd.assembly.ca.gov/sites/ahcd.assembly.ca.gov/files/hearings/Background%20Paper032311.pdf> - 66k - 2012-04-25; Veterans Housing Hearing Background Paper, CA State Assembly (November 2011).

# Leading by Example



**A**t Mount St. Mary's College, we realize that research alone is not enough when it comes to addressing the issues that impact the lives of California's 19 million women and girls. Action is required to create change.

As a women's college, we also assume the great responsibility of preparing our young women to address the challenges and inequalities that this Report reveals. We must give our students the experience, the confidence and the tools they will need to affect positive change. Above all, we must lead by example. Below are just a few key ways that Mount St. Mary's College is taking action when it comes to issues highlighted in this year's Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California.

## **On Leadership**

Leadership and service have long been the twin cornerstones of the Mount St. Mary's experience. It's why the Mount has the longest-running Women's Leadership Program west of the Mississippi River. This year, the College is raising the bar even further with the creation of a new Center for the Advancement of Women. The Center will not only prepare the Mount's own students to become effective leaders, but it will also serve as a community resource on issues affecting women both locally and globally.

In addition, Mount St. Mary's continues to organize a series of public events promoting women's leadership. Every fall, the College presents a Women's Leadership Conference that offers participants the chance to connect with local and national women leaders from a variety of fields. Each winter, the Mount hosts Ready to Run™, a nonpartisan campaign training designed to encourage women to run for public office. Mount St. Mary's also continues to work as a member of the Women in Public Service Project. A part of The Wilson Center, the Project is committed to creating a world where women account for 50 percent of public service positions by 2050.

### **On Media**

In the fall of 2013, Mount St. Mary's College and the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media established a partnership to create new research, educational and advocacy programs that spotlight gender inequalities in media and entertainment. The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount St. Mary's College has already worked on two new research projects. One examines how women and girls are portrayed on television, while the other studies the influence of film and television on girls' career aspirations.

The Mount has also created a trio of new media-related programs, including a new Master of Fine Arts in Film & Television, a baccalaureate minor in Gender and Media, and a combined baccalaureate degree in Journalism and New Media.

### **On Education and Employment**

This year, Mount St. Mary's is establishing two new Centers that will further cultivate a dynamic learning experience on campus. To foster student success as well as faculty development, the College is creating a Center for Academic Innovation and Creativity. Through the Center, faculty will explore and share effective teaching strategies, as well as examine best practices in learning. The Center will also provide students with a broad range of opportunities to support their success.

Additionally, the Mount is launching a Center for Global Initiatives, which will house all of the College's global leadership programs and global studies. The Center will encourage students, faculty and staff to more deeply engage in the global community, both locally and internationally. Programs will include international exchanges, curricular enhancements, cultural programs, study abroad and visiting scholars. The College has also created a Global Politics major, and hosts an annual Academic Symposium that is presented in tandem with the Mount's International Language and Culture Festival.

### **On Poverty**

Following in the tradition of Mount St. Mary's founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, students, faculty and staff continue to serve their neighbors through hands-on volunteer programs and partnerships with community nonprofits. More than 100 students from the College's nursing program also participated in a poverty simulation lab. The students role-played what it's like for low-income families to navigate health, government and community resources in order to provide shelter, food, medicine and other basic necessities for their families. In the future, the plan is to expand the simulation so that all Mount St. Mary's students can participate.

Recognizing that the root of so much poverty remains tied to education, the Mount is dedicated to providing access to higher education for qualified, capable women of potential, and does so through a \$28 million scholarship fund. The College is also helping to narrow the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers thanks to a \$6 million federal grant that supports Hispanic, female and low-income students pursuing STEM disciplines.

### **On Veterans**

More than 2.6 million servicemembers are now veterans of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and many of them are considering a return to school. At the Mount, veterans, including women who served in the Armed Forces, are enriching the on-campus experience for everyone. New resources have been created to support veterans as they transition back to the classroom, including the new Ahmanson Veteran Scholarship Initiative. A dedicated Student Veteran Liaison has been appointed in order to serve as a first point of contact for veterans, as well as to provide training to faculty and staff on best practices for reintegrating veterans into higher education.

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# The Report ON THE Status of Women & Girls IN CALIFORNIA® 2014

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